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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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16 April 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Force-17 Awaiting Instructions for Escalation

JN1404173890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Abu-al-Tayyib [Colonel Mahmud al-Natur], commander of Force-17, which reports directly to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has told AL-ITTIHAD that the popular army and the strike forces inside the occupied Arab territories are awaiting instructions from the political leadership to take the intifadah into a new phase of resistance by escalating confrontations and employing more effective means than stones and iron bars.

Abu-al-Tayyib said that such a decision hinges upon the failure of political efforts. He added that the enemy army and intelligence services are assassinating young activists and cadres, even in their homes, thus increasing the number of martyrs and the wounded. He added that the enemy intelligence services assassinate militants and try to suggest that the intifadah leadership has assassinated them for being agents in order to stir up differences among the various families and to strike against national unity.

PFLP-GC Leader Castigates 'Arafat at Rally

JN1304190490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpts] On the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], and on the anniversary of the el-Khalisa [Qiryat Shemona] and Umm al-'Aqarib operations, a massive popular rally was held at the Palestinian Arab Club, under the slogan: Faith to the martyrs and renewal of the pledge to continue with the revolution. [passage omitted]

PFLP Secretary General Ahmad Jibril delivered the front's speech. He talked first about the establishment of the front in its secret stage and then its activity in the open. He said: In the beginning, blood was the sacred thing. In the beginning, there was the memory of martyrs in our front and revolution. In the beginning, I remember the first martyr in this front, the hero martyr Khalid al-Amin, who inaugurated the way of martyrs with his blood.

Mr. Jibril spoke about the el-Khalisa operation. He said: It has been as a training school to us for 16 years. It provided the example for the operations of Tarshiha, Bet She'an, Savoy, and Dalal al-Mughrabi. It was also a school for the martyrs who carried out the operations against the Marines and the French forces. It was a school for Sana' Muhaydili and Hamidah al-Tahir.

Mr. Jibril spoke about the political significance of the operation of the martyrs of Qibya. He said: This operation was the spark of the intifadah and the response to the Amman summit, which transformed the concept of conflict with the enemy into the concept of dispute. He hailed the operations of al-Nawras and al-Jalil. He said: The General Command has humiliated the enemy and forced him to kneel to its steadfastness.

Mr. Jibril launched a campaign against the capitulation approach. He said: 'Arafat follows the logic of defeat and surrender to the enemies. His future will be like that of General Petain, who was executed by the people after the victory of the revolution. He added: What about the thousands of martyrs who were killed? Did they form a path for 'Arafat to walk on and say that he would surrender Palestine, and for Salah Khalaf to say: Excuse us, we were mistaken, because it has been proved beyond doubt that Palestine is not exclusively ours? Since 1973, 'Arafat has started to drift with the settlement programs and he is still going this way, continuing with this approach to achieve recognition of the Zionist entity, to abolish the right to return, to end the military struggle, and to cancel the PLO's charter.

Mr. Jibril reviewed the conspiracy of the Jewish emigration to Palestine. He said: This emigration is a new Balfour Declaration. It is similar to the disaster that befell Palestine in 1948. Our battle with the Jews is a battle of destiny. He added: We do not interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. If the Soviet Union wants to deport its Jewish citizens from its territory, let it deport them the way all countries deport their citizens.

Mr. Jibril paid tribute to our people in Palestine, in Galilee, Nazareth, and Shefar'am, pledging patience in struggle until the liberation of man and land.

Promises More Attacks

JN1304191290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has absolutely ruled out the possibility of comprehensive Palestinian unity and reconciliation between the factions of the Palestinian National Salvation Front and the PLO as long as the PLO adheres to its current political line. He strongly criticized PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat because 'Arafat's policy and the concessions he made have not led to the liberation of one inch of territory. On the contrary, Israel has become more intransigent. Jibril called for stepping up military struggle in all its forms. He also promised that his front would carry on fedayeen operations and that this will happen very soon.

Jibril discussed the emigration of Soviet Jews, blaming the Soviet leadership because it does not grant the Jewish emigrant an ordinary passport, but only a travel document that is valid only for travel to Israel and does not allow him to return to the Soviet Union. Thus, the Soviet leadership is involved in the intensified emigration that Jibril sees as an international conspiracy.

Jibril was speaking at a massive rally held by the front at the al-Yarmuk camp on the 25th anniversary of the front's establishment. The rally was attended by representatives of the Salvation Front, Lebanese parties, and the Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian governments.

'Arafat Receives Message From Shevardnadze

LD1604105190 Algiers APS in English 1016 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 16/4/90 (APS)—President of the Palestinian state, Yasir 'Arafat received a message from the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Palestinian agency (WAFA) indicated here. The same source informed that the message, which was handed to President 'Afarat in Tunis by the head of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Polyakov, dealt notably with the evolution of the Palestinian question and the peace process in Middle East.

According to WAFA, the foreign Soviet minister dealt in his message with the talks he had on the 6th of April in Washington on the Palestinian question with the American State Secretary, James Baker, from whom he requested guarantees of the Zionist entity to stop the mass immigration of the Soviet Jews to the occupied territories. The 'Arafat-Polyakov talks which lasted three hours also tackled the last meeting of the UN Security Council on the Soviet Jews' immigration to Palestine as well as the Soviet-Palestinian relations.

Furthermore, WAFA added that president 'Arafat instructed the Soviet diplomat to transmit to the Soviet leadership a message about "present subjects".

'Arafat Cited on Jordan Visit, Syrian Relations

JN1504201890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his deep appreciation for the honorable and courageous pan-Arab position taken by His Majesty King Husayn on the Palestinian citizens' blessed intifadah in the occupied homeland. He stressed that the Palestinian people and leadership support their brothers in Jordan against Israeli leaders' threats to Jordan's security and sovereignty.

In an exclusive interview with a JORDAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tunis, 'Arafat spoke about his imminent visit to Jordan. He expressed great delight to be meeting His Majesty King Husayn at this serious time for our Arab nation. He said his talks with his majesty the king will focus on the direct and indirect threats by Israeli leaders against our Arab nation—and Iraq in particular—and the dangers of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and other areas to occupied Palestine. The talks will also focus on issues of common concern between Jordan and Palestine, especially supporting the Palestinian people's just struggle. He added: His Majesty King Husayn has always been on the side of his Palestinian brothers and the intifadah in the occupied territories.

He said the organized and planned Jewish immigration threatens, first of all, Jordan and Lebanon—especially southern Lebanon. 'Arafat stressed again the need for convening an Arab summit as soon as possible to discuss these grave matters and build a unified Arab stance to confront them. He commented that there have been intensive efforts recently to expedite the Arab summit and that contacts in this direction are continuing. 'Arafat strongly condemned the Jewish settlers' brutal attack against the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem and their contemptible harassment of the patriarch of the religious group on 11 April. The Palestinian president mentioned the current hostile campaign against Iraq, saying it is an unfair and unjustified campaign aimed not only at Iraq but also against the Arab nation and pan-Arab security in its entirety. He said the statements by His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn were in response to current secret Israeli preparations and continued training for carrying out a new act of aggression against Iraq.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations and efforts to rectify them, 'Arafat said contacts between the two sides have recently seen rapid movement, followed by several meetings between him and Syrian government officials, particularly Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He said contacts between the two sides are continuing with a view to rectifying relations completely.

PLO Leader Gives Speech to Businessmen

LD1404204290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1732 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 4 Apr (SPA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the number of intifadah martyrs has so far reached 1,100, with 75,000 wounded, 68,000 detained in mass detention camps, 5,600 cases of abortion due to gases, and 6,500 handicapped due to savage fires.

In a speech he delivered upon opening the conference of Palestinian businessmen—which began last night in Tunis for the study of the ways of consolidating the uprising—'Arafat called on the various Palestinian thinkers to meet in order to think about the possibilities available in consolidating the uprising, preparing the constituent factors of the independent Palestinian state, defining its path and economic foundations, and discussing all issues in total freedom.

'Arafat expressed on the occasion optimism concerning the proximity of the establishment of state of Palestine. He hailed the increasing world support the Palestinian people's revolution is witnessing and pointed out to the meetings he had with the Italian officials, French President Francois Mitterrand, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. All these meetings were related to the emigration of the Soviet Jews to occupied territories. He

also valued the support of East European states for the just struggle waged by the Palestinian people for the achievement of its self-determination.

The conference elected 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman as chairman of its sessions and Basil 'Aql as its spokesman. It includes about 70 high ranking Palestinian businessmen from Latin America, North America, Europe, and other countries. It also includes 30 Palestinian thinkers, in addition to the members of the Palestinian leadership. After the conclusion of the general discussion of economic and political matters, the conference adopted its agenda for the sessions which will follow tomorrow in Tunis.

Libya Said Trying to Influence Abu-Nidal Group

NC1504092490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0728 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Apr (MENA)—According to informed Palestinian sources, Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is currently exerting special efforts to persuade the Abu-Nidal group to turn into an overt Palestinian political organization and to stop acts of violence outside of occupied Palestine.

In a report in the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, these sources said that during the past few days, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi discussed with a number of senior Palestinian officials these efforts as well as the possibility of accepting the new organization in the membership of the Palestine National Council and other PLO institutions after this organization, once formed, announces its adherence to PLO's general political line.

The same sources hinted that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's efforts in this respect have met some success in light of Abu-Nidal Group's recent release of French hostages.

Comparison of 'Arafat's Monthly Intifadah Message

JN1204204690

Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic at 1850 GMT on 12 April carried a 25-minute recorded message by Yasir 'Arafat to mark the beginning of the 29th month of the intifadah. This version has been compared with the Sannaa Voice of Palestine item published in the 12 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 1, revealing the following variation:

Page one, column two, paragraph three, sentence one reads: As we anticipate hopefully the news of the days of this new month of our intifadah to perform intifadah activities in order to show faith to our righteous martyrs and commitment to the pledge and oath that we have made to their chaste souls, we remember the.... (supplying indistinct words and rewording)

Page two, column two, first full paragraph, sentence three reads: ...atomic, chemical, conventional, biological, and missile weapons. It has also.... (supplying additional material)

Algeria

Interior Minister Mohammedi on June Elections

LD1504221190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Excerpt] According to the interior minister speaking at a news conference this afternoon, the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party, the Independents, and the Islamic Salvation Front are the most active participants in the forthcoming municipal and wilayat elections, for which the first stage of preparations has ended. Our correspondent Ahmed Mag'ach reports:

[Mag'ach] Some 11 political parties and 1631 lists of Liberal candidates are playing a part in municipal and wilayat elections, announced Interior Minister Mohamed Salah Mohammedi at a news conference this afternoon at the ministry's headquarters, in the presence of the national press.

The formations present in all wilayat are the NLF Party, the Liberal Independents, and the Islamic Salvation Front followed by the Algerian Renewal Party in 40 wilayat, then the Social Democratic Party in 39 wilayat, and the National Party for Solidarity and Development in 38 wilayat.

The interior minister stated that the first noticeable aspect during this stage is that the nominations were free and without any restrictions. The second is the desire of the new political parties to actively participate in deeply rooting the democratic course. The third observation concerns the size and intensity of the free nominations—plus the good conditions for these preparations—despite some exaggerations which were recorded at some points in the wilayat which are due, as the minister described it, to the citizens' enthusiasm and vitality toward the election process.

The interior minister also announced that the number of those registered in the electoral lists amounts to 13,170,137 citizens, while the number of polling offices are estimated at 42,000 offices throughout the republic. The second stage will concern, as Mohamed Salah Mohammedi said, the evaluation of the lists of nominies. The third stage will concern the material preparation with the election campaign starting on 21 May and closing on 4 June. This period will be utilized to review the electoral lists.

During this conference, the interior minister replied to the journalists' questions which dealt also with the aspect of violence prevailing at certain areas of the homeland.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, a number of people have noticed the escalation of acts of violence, particularly during this month of Ramadan, and the absence, on the other hand, of the security forces with the exception of the case of al-Atlas Hall [words indistinct].

[Mohamed Salah Mohammedi] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

I disagree with you on both parts of your question: neither the escalation of violence nor the absence of security forces. The new thing in regard to violence is not its escalation but the increased interest in it. This comes as a result of the freedom of expression, the freedom of press, and freedom in general and the non-acceptance of violence in whatever form. This, in fact, represents the new element. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Fundamentalists Hold Violent Protest in Algiers

LD1304111590 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Very serious incidents took place in Algeria on Wednesday [11 April] evening. We have the details today. The incidents are very indicative of the fundamentalist fever which has been characterizing the political and social life of the country for a while now. On Wednesday evening the most intransigent fundamentalists attempted to prevent by force a music concert taking place. The police had to intervene and eight policemen were injured. Philippe Lemarie:

[Lemarie] Yes, it should be said that the Atlas hall where a group of Kabyle musicians and singers were due to perform is situated just opposite a mosque, so this impious singing during Ramadan was obviously a sacrilege. Young fundamentalist activists from various working class districts of Algiers bombarded the antiriot police guarding the building with stones and bottles. Clearly, these youths wanted to prevent this entertainment going ahead, which it did in the end, but it took several hundred police to ensure this, eight of whom were injured during clashes which lasted for a good part of the night. About 20 of the fundamentalists were arrested, some of them claiming to belong to a very radical Shi'ite association, Al-Takfir wa al-Hijra, which means Expiation of Sin. [passage omitted]

Public Prosecutor Statement on Disturbances

LD1404050190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Following the incidents which took place recently in the Sid Amer municipality, Bousaada district, the public prosecutor at the (Masela) issued a clarification in which he pointed out that the attacks which took place on 8 and 9 April on the houses of citizens, whose furniture was burned, and the chaos and confusion which were spread among the residents of the municipality, were the doings of a group which took advantage of the opportunity availed when a number of secondary school students closed the main road, demanding that the bus which was taking them to the school be repaired.

The public prosecutor said that after the intervention of the national gendarmerie, the students partially dispersed, but the chaos did not end until after the breaking

of the fast, because another group took advantage of the opportunity, and some meddlesome people gathered around those people so that their destructive deeds would not be seen. They took out furniture from four houses owned by divorced women and burned them while shouting slogans which were different from those shouted by the students. The demonstrators reassembled the following day, according to the statement, but the national gendarmerie were able to identify the planners of the operation and to arrest some elements. The public prosecutor warned that citizens who demand their rights, in good faith but in illegal ways, provide an opportunity for others who wait for opportunities to attack liberties and property.

New 'Arab and Islamic Union' Party Formed

LD1504004890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] A new party has been formed. Its name is the Arab and Islamic Union [Rassemblement Arabe et Islamique]. According to the barrister, Mr. (Grin Lajid), the party is of the Islamic tendency. Its aims are, among others, the immediate Arabization of the administration, teaching and the media, to ensure a pass rate of 80 percent in the baccalaureate, to work out laws inspired by the shari'a, and to put into practice the principle of: Where did you get that from? [reference to ill-gotten gains law].

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Welcomes Senator Dole's Remarks

NC1404111290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minster and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt welcomes the statement made by U.S. Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Senate, yesterday. The senator said he is opposed to the U.S. Senate resolution that considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

Dole said that he informed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of his oppositon to the U.S. Senate resolution and that he would try to correct the mistake after he returns to Washington.

Dole headed a U.S. Senate delegation on a Middle East tour that included Egypt, Jordan, Syrian, Iraq, and Israel.

Christian Group Arrested on Sedition Charges

NC1304181990 Cairo MENA in English 1750 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, April 13 (MENA)—Police today arrested a religious organization preaching Christianity and sowing the seeds of sectarian sedition between Muslims and Copts in Egypt. The group, comprising two Swiss and one German national, rented a flat in al-'Ajuzah, a Cairo district, where police found a number of leaflets and circulars calling for spreading sectarian troubles. A number of Egyptians frequented the flat but they are still at large and being sought by the police.

The arrested were referred to al-'Ajuzah prosecution for further investigation.

Group To Be Released, Deported

NC1404193290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—The al-'Ajuzah prosecutor's office has decided to release the three suspects who were arrested on charges of preaching with a view to stirring up sectarian strife between Muslims and Copts in Egypt. The prosecutor has also decided to take the necessary measures to deport them.

The three suspects emphasized during the investigations conducted by the prosecutor's office that they had been talking about a creed which they believe in and which reflects their own views and that they mean no harm to Islam or the Muslims. The three suspects are Roland Creseri, a Swiss national, and Esto Walter and Michael Joseph, German nationals.

Muslim, Christian Leaders Meet To Confirm Unity

NC1504195090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Muslim and Christian men of religion met at a banquet to break the fast organized by the Awqaf Ministry this evening, in confirmation of national unity and peace and love between the Muslims and Copts.

Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, shaykh of al-Azhar, delivered a speech on the occasion in which he said that this meeting unites hearts in sincerity and serenity and expresses the reality of our history.

The shaykh of al-Azhar emphasized that Egypt has never known division or disagreement. He said: We are in need of such meetings. If we are not united we will be a target for others.

Pope Shanudah III of Alexandria, the Coptic patriarch, also delivered a speech in which he thanked President Husni Mubarak, on behalf of the Copts, for consolidating national unity.

Pope Shanudah said: We are the children of one father and one mother. We are living on one land, united in heart and spirit. He stated: We love you wholeheartedly and we want this love to continue and spread in our homeland.

The banquet was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, a large number of ministers, Muslim and Christian clerics, and Arab and Islamic ambassadors in Cairo.

Chadian on Conflict with Libya, French Troops

NC1304155790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian information minister and special envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre, has praised the role played by President Husni Mubarak, the OAU current chairman, in resolving African problems.

In an exclusive interview with MENA today, he said he had briefed President Mubarak on the outcome of the Libyan-Chadian joint committee meetings designed to resolve the dispute between the two countries, as well as on developments in Chad and the recent confrontations and clashes along the Chadian-Sudanese borders. He added that, as usual, President Mubarak had shown understanding and interest in the situation in the region.

The Chadian information minister noted that, with the distinguished position it occupies in the Arab world, following the restoration of ties with Libya, and considering its good relations with Chad, Egypt could play an important role in settling the problems between Libya and Chad. Asked whether Egypt has made any suggestions on the resolution of the Chadian-Libyan conflict, the Chadian minister said that Egypt is thinking of putting forward a peace initiative, either within or outside the framework of the OAU.

The Chadian minister pointed out that French troops are present in Chad in response to the Chadian Government's request, noting that France has the absolute right to reduce or withdraw its troops. However, he added, Chad insists that the French troops stay, in view of the threats that Chad is subjected to at present. He noted that the military agreements between Chad and France give France the right to intervene militarily to defend Chadian territories.

The Chadian official expressed his hope that, as a result of the French-Libyan rapprochement, France will play a role in resolving the Libyan-Chadian conflict. He also hoped the other friendly countries will work to find a peaceful settlement between Chad and Libya.

Departs for Jeddah 13 April

NC1304145290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Chadian Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif left Cairo for Jeddah today after a four-day visit to Egypt during which he gave President Mubarak a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre. Abdelkader Kouche [name as received], Chadian ambassador in Cairo, accompanied the Chadian minister, who was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Fathi Yusuf, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's African Department.

Saudi Petroleum Minister Nazir Concludes Visit

NC1304131990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Saudi Petroleum Minister Hisham Nazir left Cairo this afternoon after a one-day visit to Egypt during which he conveyed a message from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to President Husni Mubarak.

Chemist 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and Shaykh As'ad Abu-al-Nasr, the Saudi ambassador in Cairo, saw off the Saudi minister at the airport.

Court Accepts Formation of New Political Parties

NC1404180490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—The political parties department of the supreme administrative court issued a ruling today approving the formation of three new political parties: the Greens Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Misr al-Fatah [Young Egypt] Party.

The court refused to allow the formation of the Nasirite Party.

In its ruling, the court said that it had been established that the first three parties have distinct programs that are sufficiently diverse from those of other parties. It added that their principles, objectives, and methods are in congruence with Islamic shari'a as a major source of legislation and that they agree with the 23 July 1952 Revolution and the 15 May 1971 Revolution. The court said that they seek to preserve national unity, social peace, the socialist democratic system, and socialist gains. [passage omitted]

The court stated that it had rejected the formation of the Nasirite Party because its program is based on a totalitarian system and does not believe in democracy and the multiparty system provided for in the Egyptian Constitution. [passage omitted]

Kamal Ahmad, representing the founders of the Nasirite Party; 'Aliy al-Din Salih, representing the founders of the Misr al-Fatah Party; 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Turk, representing the founders of the Democratic Unionist Party; and 'Abd-al-Majid Nunu and Kamal Kirah, representing the founders of the Greens Party, had submitted lawsuits demanding the cancellation of the decision by the chairman of the political affairs committee opposing the formation of these parties.

World Bank Contributes $31 Million for Projects

JN1304203690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Egypt has signed a new agreement with the World Bank, under which the World Bank will contribute

$31 million to finance a project for renewing and overhauling irrigation and sewage stations in lower and upper Egypt. The overall cost of the project stands at $50 million.

Dr. 'Irfan Shafi'i, first undersecretary for international organizations affairs at the Ministry of International Cooperation, who returned from Washington yesterday after signing the agreement for Egypt, said that the project aims to upgrade operating efficiency and reduce maintenance cost at 50 operating stations. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Irfan Shafi'i added that Egypt is authorized to obtain annual World Bank transfers totaling $500-800 million to finance projects.

Police Arrests Gang With Counterfeit Currencies

JN1304204290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Apr 90 p 15

[By Ahmad Musa]

[Excerpts] The Public Funds Investigation Police has uncovered the largest network for smuggling counterfeit foreign currencies, particularly U.S. dollars. The network, which is composed of nine people, includes a lawyer, a student at the American University, and another student at a technical institute. The currencies are smuggled by Israeli tourists to be sold in Egypt in order to undermine the national economy. The first clue leading to uncovering the network's personnel came when security police arrested Israeli tourists carrying huge quantities of counterfeit U.S. dollars, and the appearance of other, similar counterfeit dollars in central Cairo. The police managed to obtain some of the counterfeit $100 banknotes. [passage omitted]

Search operations and investigations showed that circulation of the counterfeit currency was conducted by a gang of nine members, most of whom reside in al-'Arish. [passage omitted]

After obtaining the permission of the Trade and Financial Affairs Prosecution, the gang members were arrested simultaneously in al-'Arish and Cairo. Counterfeit notes in their possession worth $100,000 were also seized. These dollars, all of which are $100 banknotes, were on their way to be sold in the black market.

Paper Backs Iraq, Libya on Nuclear Inspection

JN1304123590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Apr 90 p 6

[Editorial: "A Challenge To Expose Nature of Unjust Campaign"]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has said that Iraq is prepared to accept any international inspection to confirm that his country does not produce or try to produce nuclear weapons. Likewise, Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that he is also prepared to accept international inspection for chemical or nuclear weapons in Libya. The only condition set by the two Arab leaders was that inspection apply to all states in the region, particularly Israel.

Naturally, U.S. and British officials will ignore this clear offer made by the Iraqi and Libyan presidents because they know full well that Israel will never agree to put its nuclear or chemical installations under any form of international inspection. Moreover, acceptance of this offer would halt the biased, unjust coordinated campaigns against the two Arab states and expose their real objectives.

However, officials in charge of Arab media in all Arab states must highlight Iraq's and Libya's challenge for a response to the wild campaign involving Western media organs as well as U.S. and British intelligence services. The Arab League must also take up the Arab challenge so that world opinion will realize the extent of the allegations made by certain states against the Arabs at a time when their favoritism toward Israel and silence over its crimes and constant violation of all international laws have reached limits unknown before by the international community.

Paper Defends Libya's Role in Hostage Release

NC1404081590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM commends Libya's prominent role in the recent release of French and Belgian hostages, and says this refutes the claims by some international parties which accuse the Libyan regime of sponsoring and supporting terrorism.

Under the headline "Libya and the Hostages," AL-AHRAM says there were previous indications and enough evidence that these claims were false. It cites as an example the admission by Bernard Kalb, former U.S. State Department spokesman, that false information accusing Libya of terrorism was leaked to justify the 1986 attack on that country.

AL-AHRAM stresses that labeling Libya with terrorism is linked to its attempts to strengthen its independence and regional security whether on its borders or in its territorial waters. It also is linked to Libya's attempts to establish advanced military industries to face the foes and occupiers who have a free rein in the Arab sky and land and who are sowing bombardment and destruction.

Fatah Leader Views Attack on Greek Patriarch

NC1504142290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has condemned the attack on the Greek Orthodox church and Patriarch Dhiodhoros I by the Israeli occupation forces and Israeli settlers. He added that this attack confirms Israel's continued violation of both Islamic and Christian sanctities.

In his statement today, the Palestinian official urged all the organizations of the international community to intercede immediately and put an end to the occupation authorities' acts of aggression against places of worship. He noted that Israel is trying in every way to obliterate Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian characteristics.

Al-Qidrah pointed out that the PLO is in dire need of peace. He maintained that such Israeli attacks and practices reinforce the need for the international community to exert tremendous efforts so that the Palestinian people may obtain their national legitimate rights, foremost among which is their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state of their own.

Libya

Editor on U.S. Claims From VOA Broadcast

LD1304120390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0852 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Apr (JANA)—In a commentary broadcast last Wednesday, Voice of America quoted what it named as the coordinator for combatting terrorism affairs at the U.S. State Department as saying that since the vengeful air raid against terrorist camps in Libya in 1986, European countries have been following the path of the United States and have taken political, economic, and security measures against the regime of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In its commentary, which reflects the U.S. point of view, VOA said that the people who take part in attacks are not freedom fighters, but criminals. It stated that some of them were taken before the courts.

VOA cited this coordinator as saying that a whole package of international punishments should be imposed on a number of countries so as to make them behave responsibly as a member of the international community.

JANA's political editor commented on VOA's allegations and claims by saying: The system of rule in the Jamahiriyah—the people's authority—means that it is the people that rule. We challenge the United States and other countries to provide proof that it is actually brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who exercises authority.

Unfortunately, these Americans do not know what is happening in the Great Jamahiriyah. They do not know that it is the first state in the world where the people rule themselves by themselves. The Americans are ignorant and they are not aware of these facts at all.

JANA's political editor called on the U.S. Administration to admit that it is afraid of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi because he is a revolutionary and because he presents human theories in the interest of mankind's freedom and dignity. He instigates the peoples to struggle for liberty and against U.S. hegemony and control.

The editor indicated that it would be better for the U.S. Administration to admit its fear rather than lie to its people and the whole world. It is following the same stance as the one it used to follow against Che Guevara, whom it used to fear, dspite the fact that he was not a ruler and had no ruling system whatsover. The U.S. Administration used to fear him strongly and would not even dare mention his name.

The political editor highlighted that what the U.S. aircraft actually bombed were houses, schools, and other economic buildings. However, the Yankee mentality considers these buildings terrorist camps. This uncivilized mentality considers these dwellings terrorist camps.

He added: We are saying to the world that these camps of terrorism were in reality houses in which children, old people, and women were killed. The world saw them then. He pointed out that the United States tried to dupe the world and lie to it, claiming that these houses were terrorist camps, but the world knew that those places were houses in which their inhabitants were asleep and that all the United States said was lies and prattle and that no one should believe it. With regard to the VOA allegations that Europe joined the United States in the boycott of Libya, JANA's political editor pointed out that Europe's boycott of the Great Jamahiriyah, if it really took place, meant tens of Western companies leaving Libya, the explusion of thousands of European workers from Libya, and the disappearance of long lines [word indistinct] the European ships carrying goods to Libya. It meant also the closing down of tens of factories in Europe and thousands of workers becoming unemployed. He also said: If Europe boycotted Libya, that is precisely what would happen; it meant the boycott of the interests of Europe, which undoubtedly would lose.

With regard to what the radio said about terrorism and terrorist apparatuses, JANA's political editor affirmed that if there really was a terrorist apparatus, it was the CIA, which was considered the most dangerous apparatus of terrorism in the world. It spread terror and fear in the various parts of the world, killed heads of state, eliminated entire races, produced AIDS and spread it in the world. He pointed out that there was no apparatus more terrorist than that.

The editor added that for the world to really get rid of terrorism the United States must withdraw its military fleets and its terrorist bases which are spread in numerous parts of the world, as well as the CIA. He pointed out that if there were a call for the implementation of democracy, it was necessary for it first to be implemented in the United States because the American peoples are the ones who are most ruled by dictatorship. He also pointed out that Reagan went on ruling the United States with emergency law for 10 years, despite the fact that he was half mad, afflicted with cancer and old age, and the American people did not have any say in

his decisions. The editor wondered if there was any dictatorship greater than that.

He also said: The American people, more than any other, need democratic rule in order to get rid of the three dictatorships dominating them which are represented by the White House, the Pentagon, and the CIA.

JANA's political editor stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah will continue to fight for democracy and peoples' freedom. It will continue to instigate the people to rebel against their executioners, such as rulers, the police, political parties, and all other oppression apparatuses.

Regarding this coordinator's claims that these Palestinian movements are not fighting for liberty, the political editor wondered if the struggle of these fedayeen is not for the sake of freedom, then who has the right to fight for liberty? What kind of humanity is there in the United States if it does not side with the Palestinian people, who is being subjected to the most hideous crimes in this century? Are there any crimes uglier than those committed by the Zionists in Palestine? Or is the United States incapable of revealing this truth because it is afraid of Zionist pressures? Or is it because Zionism is now practicing direct terrorism against the U.S. Administration, which is unable to utter a single word of justice for the sake of the Palestinian people, who are struggling for the liberation of their land?

The editor stated that we would like to ask the United States about its view regarding the crimes committed by the Zionists in Palestine, and which it impudently defends while accusing the Palestinian resistance of terrorism. The editor indicated that the biggest terrorism mongers are the leaders of what currently is called Israel, such as Begin, Peres, Shamir, Sharon, and others, who committed the ugliest crimes and massacres against a defenseless people and who are now leading what the United States calls the State of Israel.

The editor stressed that if there were a trial, it is these terrorists who should be tried first, whereas if Zionism controls the United States then the U.S. people should free themselves from it, as in the past they liberated themselves from the domination of Britain under the leadership of George Washington.

JANA's political editor pointed out that we in the Great Jamahiriyah will not forgive the United States for its lies and we are ready to face it. We will bring double retaliation upon it and use the tit-for-tat policy against it. We will not let the world believe its lies; we will expose it. The editor indicated that the capitalists and the bourgeois in the United States are not stronger than the communist parties that tumbled before the march of the masses in Eastern Europe.

The editor said that the peoples will unite against U.S. imperialism and will not allow it to practice its terrorism against them, until the United States succumbs to the determination of the world, and not the other way around. He stressed the need to force the United States to behave responsibly before the international community, as VOA stated.

JANA's political editor concluded his commentary by saying: We do not believe that this rude commentary really represents the U.S. point of view, but rather that it reflects the views of the so-called ambassador, Busby, who probably is sick or out of his mind.

'Campaign' Criticized Over Hostage Release

AU1304131590 Paris AFP in English 1259 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, April 13 (AFP)—Libya on Friday slammed the Western media for "distorting" the Libyan role in the release of Jacqueline Valente, Fernand Houtekins and their small daughter Sophie-Liberte.

The Libyan Embassy in Paris issued a communique praising the "independent foreign policy" of France after charges that France grovelled to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to obtain the hostages' release. "We believe the motive behind this campaign is that others resent France's Mediterranean policy and its constructive role in helping to consolidate cooperation and peace between the states of this region." "The independent foreign policy of France annoys the American and British media," the embassy said, expressing "praise for France's way of taking its decisions freely and refusing to bow to American pressure."

France has been accused of making concessions in exchange for the hostages, and notably of authorising the departure for Libya of three Mirage jets impounded since 1986 under an EEC arms embargo to countries backing terrorism.

Libya Wants Ban on French Arms Sales Lifted

JN1404182490 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Apr 90 p 3

[By 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr]

[Excerpt] Paris—Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources in Paris have told AL-QABAS that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi would like to see the French ban on the sale of French arms and military hardware to Libya lifted. Libya was said to be interested in concluding new arms deals with France within the framework of mending bilateral ties.

At the same time, AL-QABAS learned that a number of Arab states have advised and encouraged France to improve ties with Libya and that the French Administration plans to do so, irrespective of likely negative reactions from the United States or other West European nations.

However, before discussing the prospects for Libyan-French ties against the background of the recent release of the French hostages Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian

boyfriend Fernand Houtekins, and their daughter Sophie-Liberte, and the key role Libya played in securing their freedom, as well as French assurances that this development is likely to produce a thaw in relations with Libya, it would be interesting to look at the events leading up to the release.

Knowledgeable sources in Paris have told AL-QABAS that a non-political Arab personality, who is close to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, made a secret trip to Paris three weeks ago, and conferred with a senior French official, following efforts by a third Arab country close to both France and Libya. According to the sources, who are privy to the ins and outs of the case, the Paris meeting discussed French-Libyan ties and explored the prospects for their step-by-step development in various areas, once Jacqueline, her boyfriend, and their daughter were set free. It emerged from the meeting between the Arab personality and the French official that France is clearly inclined to develop ties with Libya. Straight after the meeting, the Arab personality headed for Libya and briefed al-Qadhdhafi on his Paris talks and his "positive impressions" of French intentions toward Libya. According to the same sources, this clandestine meeting was crucial in convincing the Libyan leader to prevail on the Fatah-Revolutionary Council [FRC], led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] to release the three hostages. They were among a group of French and Belgian nationals seized by Abu-Nidal's group from the yacht "Silco" in the Mediterranean in November 1987 for allegedly spying on behalf of Israel. Four Belgians are still being held hostage, and the FRC is negotiating their possible release with the Belgian authorities. Apart from the secret Paris meeting, other unpublicized sessions were held between a French security envoy and officials of the Abu-Nidal group over the past few months in Lebanon, Libya, and other Arab countries. Meanwhile, Arab countries have been acting between France and Libya to close the dossier of the "Silco" hostages for good.

Did the secret Paris meeting deal with the resumption of military cooperation between France and Libya? The sources that divulged news of the meeting between the Arab personality close to al-Qadhdhafi and the French official could not say whether military cooperation came up. However, AL-QABAS has learned from well-informed Arab sources in Paris that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would very much like the French Government to order an end to the French embargo on French arms sales to Libya as a prelude to new arms deals between France and Libya. They would be the first such transactions in ten years. The arms ban was among European sanctions slapped against Libya and Syria at the time. Lifting the ban is seen by Libya as a prerequisite for any improvement in relations with France, the sources say. They add that the embargo may be phased out, since France does not seem to be ready, under present circumstances to supply Libya with such offensive weapons as aircraft, tanks, artillery, battleships, and helicopters. [passage omitted on past military ties between France and Libya and reasons why former cannot lift the ban just yet]

Comments on Authenticity in PLO Remarks

LD1304172190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 13 Apr (JANA)—THE NEW YORK TIMES published a statement attributed to a senior PLO official in Tunis, made in a telephone conversation, to the effect that Libya hoped to benefit from France as a first step toward improving its relations with the West. In a lengthy report published the day before yesterday, the Palestinian official was reported to have said that Libya is now striving to ingratiate itself to the West in light of the abating Soviet support and its growing need for Western technology and expertise, and to resume its relations with the United States in the end.

The JANA political editor commented on this humbug. The editor said: If such a statement was indeed made by a senior PLO official in Tunis, he can only be affilitated with the Zionist Mosad and an infiltrator of the Fatah leadership. And such a thing is likely in sides which have been involved in an historic struggle for scores of years, each trying to win supporters and followers, and even spies in the other camp. Each side strives to have its man at the top, and we do not doubt at all that the Mosad succeeded in enlisting a leading Fatah official, who is the author of this statement, and the proof is that this statement is aimed at obstructing any assistance or backing to the Palestinian organizations from Libya.

The editor went on to say that "the author of this statement has volunteered to make out that it has no relation to this subject. Also the author of this statement cannot be an Arab or a Palestinian struggler, because he harms Libya's glorious attitude toward the United States." [passage omitted]

The editor ended his commentary by saying, "let us ask this Palestinian official: What will the PLO and Fatah gain from this statement, and to what extent will it serve the Palestinian cause, unless he is enlisted by the Zionist Mosad?"

Sudan

Sulayman Comments on Peace Process, Proposal

EA1304192990 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the Information and Orientation Committee, conducted a news conference yesterday in the People's Hall in Omdurman in which he reviewed current developments. He said the recent Cabinet changes were a normal Cabinet reshuffle, which came after a

thorough reexamination of performance. It is a normal measure for making a change to improve performance.

Asked about the appointment of RCC members as regional governors, Col. Sulayman explained that this is not a question of sidelining or banishment; rather, it is a matter of making official assignments in the interests of the nation's business. He declared that the cabinet reshuffle took place in complete harmony following consultations and patient studies. The decision was not a result of any emotions; rather it was taken for the sake of improved performance.

In reply to a question about his role as an official RCC spokesman and the future role of the Information Committee, Col. Sulayman stated that he will be a member of the RCC Orientation and Social Affairs Committee. This committee will be formed today and will include a number of institutions. It will be concerned with issues of information, culture, and the welfare of student organizations.

Asked about the American peace initiative, his excellency said the government approved of the initiative, although it has some reservations concerning certain points. He praised the Egyptian, Kenyan, and Zairian efforts in this regard. He added that they are contributing to achieving peace, confirming the endeavors of the revolutionary government to solve the problem politically.

He explained that the visit of the Zairian president's envoy to Khartoum is a part of the efforts currently being exerted to achieve peace in Sudan.

Asked about the application of federalism in Sudan, he said there are specific recommendations concerning federalism. Legal committees were formed and academic symposiums held in the regions so that the plan can become integrated.

Col. Sulayman confirmed that the revolution had managed to achieve security throughout the country, particularly in the south and in Darfur. He said the incidents that had occurred on the western border [with Chad] were isolated events which the security forces had succeeded in containing.

He denied the possibility of a return to a multiparty system in Sudan. He also denied the existence of a purely military authority. He said the new political organization will comprise all sectors. The revolution will endeavor to involve the citizens in this issue in order to hold a comprehensive political conference with the air of establishing the required quasi-political organization. The committee for guiding this conference will be formed in the coming days.

He declared that Sudan is endeavoring to create groupings with Arab and African states, and that this would not affect the declaration of this year as the year of Africa in Sudan.

He reviewed the programs for confronting the information campaigns that are hostile to Sudan, confirming that the information conference had come out with specific recommendations in this respect and that these recommendations have adequately dealt with this question. Col. Sulayman said the recommendations of the conference will be approved during the coming days by the RCC and the Council of Ministers. They will then be implemented.

Talks To Resume 'Soon'

EA1304154090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0925 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13 April (SUNA)—National Salvation Revolution Command Council member Brigadier General Dominic Kassiano has declared that the third round of negotiations between the government and the rebel movement will take place in Zaire soon.

In a press statement issued following a meeting yesterday between Brig. Gen. Kassiano and Mr. Bandy Beko [name as received], the Zairian security minister and Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko's envoy, the envoy affirmed that the Zairian Government was continuing its efforts and initiatives to bring closer the views of the National Salvation government and those of the rebel movement, adding that Egypt,in collaboration with Zaire, was preparing the ground for the next round of negotiations.

The Zairian minister affirmed that President Mobutu Sese Seko would not spare any effort to secure peace throughout the whole country, adding that Zaire is particularly eager to obtain a peaceful solution to the conflict in southern Sudan.

It is worth noting that the Zairean minister arrived in Khartoum on Wednesday [11 April] on an official visit in the framework of a tour aimed at restoring peace in the Sudan.

Government Forming Delegation

EA1504114490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, April 15—The Revolution Command Council member Brigadier Dominic Kassiano yesterday announced that steps were currently being taken for the formation of the government delegation to the third round of peace talks with the rebellion movement, due to be hosted by Zaire shortly.

In a press statement yesterday Brig. Kassiano indicated that contacts were continuing with both Egypt and Zaire as regards realisation of peace in Sudan.

Al-Hasan Meets With Zaire Envoy on Peace Talks

EA1304164590 Khartoum SUNA in French 0932 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, April [dateline as received]—A National Salavation Revolution Command Council

[NSRCC] member, Brigadier General 'Uthman al-Hasan, head of the NSRCC Political Committee, yesterday met Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko's special envoy, who arrived in Khartoum on Wednesday [11 April]. During the meeting the two sides discussed the efforts made by Zaire toward ending the southern Sudan conflict.

In a statement made at the end of the meeting, the Zairian minister affirmed that the Zairian Government was ready to take into consideration all the claims made by the Sudanese Government on the subject.

The meeting also tackled the reactivation of the Sudan-Zaire joint ministerial committees and the formation of joint projects, notably in the sectors of agriculture and energy.

At the end of the meeting, Brig. Gen. al-Hasan said that the Sudanese Government welcomed the tireless efforts made by Zaire to reach an adequate formula for the reestablishment of peace in Sudan.

Khalifah Holds Talks With Delegate

EA1304185590 Khartoum SUNA in French 0940 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 April (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the national dialogue conference for peace, has exchanged points of view with the Zairian president's emissary, who is currently on a visit to our country, on the forthcoming round of negotiations between the National Salvation Government and the rebel movement. These talks will be held in Kinshasa at the initiative of the president of Zaire, Mobutu Sese Seko, in order to reestablish peace in the country.

During the meeting, Col. Khalifah was informed about the preparations made by the Zairian Government for the talks. The meeting also discussed the recommendations of the national dialogue conference for peace and the Addis Ababa and Nairobi talks held between the National Salvation Government and the rebel movement, in addition to Arab and African initiatives on the matter.

Col. Khalifah hailed all the initiatives taken by Arab and African states to reestablish peace in Sudan, notably the Zairian initiative. Col. Khalifah hailed the Zairian Government for not accepting rebel elements on its territory.

Al-Bashir: Coup Investigation Still in Progress

EA1404210990 Khartoum SUNA in French 1500 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 April (SUNA)—The Revolution Command Council chairman, General 'Umar al-Bashir, has confirmed that investigations into officers involved in the recent coup attempt are still in progress.

During his meeting today with officers and soldiers of Khartoum Military Region, General al-Bashir reaffirmed that the revolution is determined to realize peace and stability in the country, adding that the revolution is trying to satisfy the needs of the Armed Forces so that they may safeguard the independence and national unity of Sudan.

Coup Plot Detainees Allegedly Held Without Charge

EA1504172590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Our sources inside Khartoum have informed us that military and civilian detainees in the case of the recent so-called coup are now at Jabal al-Awliya [approximately 15 miles south of Khartoum] and are grouped together, despite the fact that the so-called coup took place a long time ago. Moreover, none of their cases have been investigated, nor have any charges been made against them.

This confirms what we have been saying about the human rights violations and continuous purges carried out by the government of the National Islamic Front in the civil and military services.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army Radio calls on the families of the detainees and their relatives to put pressure on the military authorities, to allow them to visit their kin, to see that investigations are carried out, and to receive fair trials if there are any charges, or otherwise, that they be released.

Salih, Iraq Envoy Discuss U.S. 'Campaign'

EA1304182890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13 April (SUNA)—Deputy chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, had yesterday reviewed with Iraq ambassador to Sudan Tariq Muhammad Yahya bilateral relations and ways of their promotion.

The encounter also discussed the hostile campaign organised by the USA, Britain and Israel against Iraq in particular and the Arab nation.

The Iraqi diplomat said the meeting also reviewed the development of the situation in Sudan and progress of peace plan in south.

RCC Member Briefed by Romanian Envoy

EA1404225090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the Political Committee, met in his office at People's Hall

this morning with His Excellency Dr. Ilie Morodan, the Romanian ambassador in Khartoum. The ambassador briefed Brig. 'Uthman on the reasons which led to the changes in his country. He described the events as a radical change in the (?interests) of the people. The ambassador also praised the outcome of the Sudan-Libya integration, expressing appreciation at the noticeable changes which had occured in the country in all spheres, especially the improvement in foreign relations with other countries.

The meeting also reviewed future relations between the two countries and cooperation in the cultural and economic areas, as well as the government's efforts to bring peace to the country.

He stressed that the desire to halt mutual killings among the sons of the one homeland was among the reasons which led to the outbreak of the revolution. He wished the Romanian [word indistinct] all the best, and the Romanian people stability and (?prosperity).

Defense Minister Meets Hungarian Delegation

EA1404190690 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 April (SUNA)—The state minister for defence, Major General (rtd) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, received Thursday [12 April] in his office at the Armed Forces General Command the visiting Hungarian delegation and reviewed with them the progress of the bilateral relations between Sudan and Hungary, particularly the co-operation between the armies of the two countries. During the encounter, the chairman of the delegation has handed over a written message from the [Hungarian] deputy chief of staff to al-Hasan.

Ethiopian Refugees Depart for Home 15 April

EA1504205990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 15 April (SUNA)—About 116 Ethiopian refugees left Khartoum for Ethiopia at [word indistinct] today to voluntarily return to their country. They represent a part of the 148 Ethiopian refugees who sought refuge in Sudan early last March, following an attack by the Eritrean forces on the Red Sea port of Mitsiwa.

His Excellency 'Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, commissioner for refugees, met the refugees this morning at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees headquarters in Khartoum, in the presence of the representative of the resident high commissioner, his deputy, and the representative of the Ethiopian Embassy. At the meeting, his excellency addressed the refugees, expressing the hope that the circumstances which had forced them to seek refuge would end with the restoration of peace in the area.

His excellency the commissioner for refugees praised the good conduct of the Ethiopian refugees during their stay in the country, their cooperation with the authorities and with the representative of the commissioner [word indistinct], with the Ethiopian ambassador and the commission. At the meeting, he pointed out [words indistinct] recently, whereas [words indistinct] on the Sudan-Ethiopian border.

On the other hand, his excellency [name indistinct] is leaving for Geneva on Tuesday [17 April], the day after tomorrow, to attend the meetings of the group working on refugees' affairs, which have been organized by the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. His excellency will also discuss with the high commissioner for refugees matters concerning refugees in Sudan.

His excellency the commissioner stressed in his statement that Sudan was still committed to [word indistinct] towards refugees, and had never changed it. He pointed to the statement released recently by the Foreign Ministry concerning the famine, which has [word indistinct] Ethiopia recently and which has affected more than 4 million people. He appealed to the international community to (?send) assistance to those affected by famine in Ethiopia by cooperating with the Ethiopian Government through specified channels, such as Operation Lifeline. If this failed [words indistinct] Sudan did not (?place any obstacles) in the path of relief passing across its borders. He pointed out that this required a consensus from all parties concerned [words indistinct] and pointed to the need for the international community to put pressure on Ethiopia in this regard.

On the reduction of the volume of aid which the High Commission provides for Sudan, the commissioner said the reduction amounted to 40 percent [words indistinct] on the conditions of the Ugandan and Chadian refugees, he said that the commission was currently planning to send back the Ugandan refugees in Equatoria who wished to go back. Similarly, the commission has dispatched its representative to Darfur to prepare a report on the western border, following the recent incidents there.

On the other hand, the deputy resident High Commissioner, (Kwame Afrey), told SUNA that the commission was at the moment providing direct assistance to about 400,000 refugees from Ethiopia, Zaire, Uganda, and Chad, who were in camps and reception centers in Sudan. He said the reduction in the High Commission's aid involved many countries, and not only Sudan. He said the volume of the budget earmarked by the representative of the general High Commission for Sudan this year had not yet been fixed and is under review. He said that the 1988 budget was $43.5 million.

Unionist Party Says No Members in New Cabinet

EA1304113690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] A reliable source at the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] in London told Radio SPLA that the

DUP has none of its members in the NIF [National Islamic Front] cabinet. Replying to a question on whether Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, who has been appointed as minister of housing in the NIF cabinet, means he is representing the DUP, the reliable source says that Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih cannot be courageous enough to say that he is representing the DUP. The source said the DUP has its own leadership and its commitments, whether inside or outside the prison. The DUP members are not in the NIF cabinet.

Another source from the DUP commented that he was surprised that Dr. Abu Salih has been patient and did not join his colleagues in the NIF all this time.

Southerners Reportedly Forced To Return Home

EA1504155190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum—A reliable eyewitness from Khartoum has informed Radio SPLA that a large number of citizens from the south were rounded up and packed in a train to return them to the south. The train is to unload them at Bahr al-Arab area, where they would continue on foot to Bahr al-Ghazal. The large number of citizens were given only 700 Sudanese pounds for their feeding on the way, on a journey that would take them many weeks—a clear exposing of these (?people) to starvation and other hazards. Meanwhile, another large group has been forced to walk on foot to Safahah [in southern Darfur region] through a waterless area.

The source revealed that the authorities of the junta in Khartoum have ordered civilians from the south and from southern Kurdufan, who were displaced by natural calamities like drought and starvation and moved to the north, to return home. They are being sent to their areas to face starvation, on the pretext that they have refused to work on forced labor. Most of the citizens already escaped out of Khartoum to meet an unknown fate on their way home are from Marial Baia and (?Gop Machar) in Bahr al-Ghazal, who moved to Khartoum as early as between 1984 and 1987.

Recently, the junta has been telling donor agencies and relief workers that they have millions of displaced people to feed in Khartoum itself. While they send away these people, the junta uses (?nominal) figures to get relief food that they intend to use in the war.

Tunisia

Interior Ministry Rebuts Human Rights League

LD1404052790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] An Interior Ministry authorized source said the following:

The Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights issued a statement which was published in several daily newspapers on 11 April 1990. The statement highlights some points which the Ministry deems necessary to clarify:

The League expressed its condemnation of the practice of detention at police stations on the basis of 23 complaints about detention and torture which might have been sent to it by some citizens.

The Ministry stresses that it is not aware of anything that could substantiate these complaints, especially since the Tunisian League, which took the initiative to overtly condemn the alleged violations, did not provide the Ministry with the names of those who made the complaints nor the police stations where these alleged violations took place, or the dates of these violations.

It was possible for the League to do so, especially as the doors of the Ministry are open to it, and it has a permanent interlocutor who is a high-ranking official at the Interior Ministry. He responded positively to all the requests from League representatives to talk with the Ministry and, on six separate occasions, he received the vice-chairman in charge of relations with the Ministry, in addition to the minister's reception of the chairman of the League on two different occasions.

The League's statement cast doubts on the death of three common law detainees at police stations. These were cases of suicide and were proven through legally respected medical techniques. They were examined by justice officials, and were discontinued when suicide was confirmed. An investigation still continues in one of the cases, all of which were submitted to the chairman of the League, who would have been able to view these files had he requested them before issuing his statement, which could have prevented the incrimination of security members, the spreading of confusion in citizens' minds, and the false distortion of the country's reputation around the world.

The League expressed concern over the multiplication of passport confiscation, forgetting to mention the hundreds of passports which have been returned to their owners since 7 November [1987, when Ben Ali took over], and forgetting that most of the people whose cases were investigated by the authorities, during reasonable periods, were suspected or known deviants abroad. This kind of investigation is allowed by the laws regulating passports and travel documents, and is necessary for the concerns of public order and national dignity.

Following a message it received from the director of the newspaper in question, the League expressed its hope that obstacles to al-Fajr [organ of the Islamic Movement Nahdhah] could be removed. Who is the League blaming? And who is obstructing the circulation of this newspaper? The newspaper has obtained its legal stamp, and the administration is not responsible for its printing, and it is sure that it did not try to hamper this printing.

The League expressed its concern about the return of student mobilization following university disturbances, as if it prefers either to lend a free hand to the practice of violence on university grounds, the hampering of lessons, and the deprivation of the natural and legitimate right of eduction for the majority of students, or to see the authorities resort, in order to guarantee the students' rights, and to repel those who violate them, to throw them in prisons instead of mobilization, which is ultimately an honor and a national service.

To conclude, the Ministry reaffirms its determination to secure and protect the rights of citizens, be they individuals or groups, and to cooperate in this respect with all concerned parties who appear serious and responsibile, and who are concerned with the interests and reputation of the homeland.

Kuwait

Technical Cooperation Accord Signed With Poland

LD1504153490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1247 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 15 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Poland signed here Sunday an executive program for cultural scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries for the years of 1990-92.

The agreement was signed by secretary general of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Dr. Faruq al-Omar and Polish Ambassador to Kuwait Witold Jurasz.

The program stipulates in the culture and arts fields to encourage cooperation between the cultural associations in the two countries.

The agreement also stipulates in the education, higher education and scientific research fields that Poland would offer two scholarships every year for undergraduate and graduate studies for students from Kuwait.

The two sides also agreed to take appropriate measures before signing evaluation of certificates, diplomas and scientific degrees that would be valid for the duration of the two-year accord.

PDRY

Council of Ministers Approves Parties Draft Law

EA1404132890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, chaired the Council of Ministers as it concluded its regular meeting at noon today after discussing and approving the political organizations and parties draft law, the free areas draft law, and the agricultural land acquisition draft law. [passage omitted]

The council discussed a study pertaining to the economy and the circumstances of the production and marketing of wheat, and a memorandum concerning the subsidy of beans and groundnut exports, which were presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform. In the light of its discussion, the council agreed to raise the local price of wheat in Shabwah and Hadramawt Governorates. The council agreed to raise the price of wheat produced locally in Shabwah and Hadramawt Governorates from 170 to 200 dinars per ton to encourage its cultivation and increase the area under cultivation. The price differential for wheat earmarked for consumption is to be covered from the price equilibrium fund. The council also agreed to subsidise the differential between the export price and the price in the local market for almonds from the price stabilization fund, provided that the subsidy does not exceed the price in the local market. [passage omitted]

In its meeting, the council discussed and approved the loan agreement between our country and the OPEC Fund for International Development for contributing toward financing the project of the electricity link between the two parts of the homeland, which was signed in its final form in Vienna on 15 January 1990 for $5 million, and the loan agreement between our country and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, which was signed in Kuwait on 14 February 1990 for contributing toward the financing of the project for the development of the agricultural valley of Hadramawt, third phase, for an amount of $3 million Kuwaiti dinars. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other reports and adopted the necessary decisions on them.

Saudi Arabia

Ministry Issues Statement on Iranian Pilgrims

LD1504190790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1558 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Apr (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has renewed its categorical rejection of the method of one-upmanship, bargaining, and pressures the Tehran government practices in attempts that reaffirm the fact the latter is outside Islamic unanimity and avoids commitment to Islamic decisions under the pretext of false accusations Iranian officials level whenever the pilgrimage season approaches. An official source at the Ministry of Hajj and Awqaf [Pilgrimage Affairs and Religious Trusts] said this in a statement he made today—Sunday—to SPA in reply to what the Iranian media put out 11 April. The source said the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia renewed its adherence and commitment to the resolution of the 17th Conference of Foreign Ministers of Islamic States, which was conducted in the Jordanian capital in March 1988 regarding the fixing of a specific proportion of pilgrims, calculated as being the quotient of the population of a state over the number of Muslims in the world—the resolution which found a total response and commitment from all Islamic states except Iran, which continues to allow itself to break and violate this resolution for reasons that have become known and have been exposed to the Islamic world and its people.

In this connection, the source recalled the declaration of the Kingdom regarding the shameful Iranian practices the Iranian Government carried out, manifested in the flagrant defiance of the feelings of Muslims and the grave harm to the sanctity of the holy places and the pilgrimage rites and the fact such practices threatened the pilgrims' security and safety. Within this framework, the official source at the Ministry recalled the following:

First: The Iranian Government during the pilgrimage season of 1986 brought into the Kingdom 95 cases, in the bottoms of which C4 explosives were concealed, to carry

out terrorist acts with the goal of obstructing the pilgrimage. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dealt with that incident at the time with wisdom and farsightedness so the announcement of the news would not affect the pilgrims who had come to perform the pilgrimage and worship, and at the request of a number of heads of Islamic states who wished to contain the incident. Ahmed Khomeyni, in a letter published by the Iranian ETTELA'AT on 16 May 1990, admitted Iran sent the explosives to the Kingdom during the pilgrimage season of 1986.

Second: The fact that in holy Mecca during the pilgrimage season of 1987, Iranian demonstrators carried out acts of disturbance, sabotage, arson, and barred the roads and paths leading to the Holy Mosque and obstructed and stopped the traffic and raised slogans and portraits in an attempt to seize the Holy Mosque. The attempt failed, however, by the grace of God.

Two nights before the subversive demonstrations took place, some Iranians came forward and informed the Saudi authorities a large group of Iranians intended to enter the Holy Mosque carrying knives, daggers, and sharp implements concealed under their clothing. As a matter of fact, some 35,000 sharp implements were seized after that. They ranged from knives to daggers, and these were shown on television at that time; pictures of these implements were transmitted worldwide for the press.

Third: A group of Iranian students on 1 August 1987 broke into the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Tehran. That incident led to the martyrdom of the Saudi attache at the embassy—brother Musa'id al-Ghamidi, may God have mercy on his soul.

Fourth: The various tendacious media campaigns before and after the judicial ruling was issued against 16 people, who were convicted by the court in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for carrying out three explosion crimes in Holy Mecca during the pilgrimage of 1409, corresponding to 1989, and that resulted in 16 victims, among them dead, injured, and disabled.

The rulers of Iran were the only ones in the whole world who alleged it was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that actually fabricated the explosion incidents. Then those rulers continued their sin and misguidance when some of their officials stated: "If the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was not the one that carried out these explosions, let it then reveal who was behind these explosions, and arrest the criminals and execute them."

What is surprising is Iran's denial of any involvement in this incident immediately after it happened, despite the fact no official in Saudi Arabia accused either Iran or any other country of carrying out this hideous crime unprecedented in history. The perpetrators of this crime admitted then in voice and in picture that it was in fact Iran that plotted this crime.

God Almighty punished these criminals, as competent security authorities in Saudi Arabia were able to arrest them and bring them to justice. They admitted their crimes to the whole world in their own voices and on television—they were in the best of psychological and physical health.

The whole just Islamic judiciary, including its highest bodies, looked into this case, and issued the verdict as stipualted by the judicial code against the criminals: it was the death sentence for 16 people, varying prison sentences for four others according to the degree of their participation in these crimes, and the acquittal of nine people.

The responsible source at the Hajj and Awqaf Ministry added: The condemnation of those criminal and terrorist acts of sabotage by the Islamic world, by leaders, organizations, associations, Islamic centers, ulema, thinkers, intellectuals, conferences, and by symposiums constituted an effective and decisive response to the seriousness of those wrongful practices which violate the holy Islamic religion's teachings, and confirmed the right of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—based on its responsibility to protect and maintain security and the prevalance of order, protect the sanctity of the holy places, and ensure the safety of pilgrims to God's holy house—to take whatever precautionary measures it deemed necessary to prevent the recurrence of riotous and destuctive incidents and the incitement of sedition and corruption on earth, out of its adherence to the teachings of the Islamic religion, consideration for the sanctity of God's holy house, respect for the pilgrimage rites, and concern for the maintenance, unity, and cohesion of Muslims. "All that; and whoever venerates God's waymarks, that is of the godliness of the hearts." [Koranic verse] The source stressed that all these acts, carried out with the knowledge, planning and execution, and follow-up of the Iranian Government, will not prevent the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from implementing the decision of temporarily limiting the number of pilgrims, especially since all the Islamic counrties—with the exception of Iran—have displayed a commendable understanding regarding the reasons for the adoption of the decision, and that they were linked with the extension work in the two holy places in Mecca and al-Madinah, and in the squares surrounding them, in addition to the construction of buildings to absorb the largest possible number of visitors to God's holy house, and to provide them with every service of the highest standard in form, quality, and quantity.

The source refuted anew the claim by the Iranian media accusing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of banning Iranian pilgrims, and said Iran itself insists on rejecting fixing the pilgrims quota, which was approved unanimously by the Islamic world at the 17th Conference of the Islamic States' Foreign Ministers.

The source affirmed that for the past two years, the rulers of Iran have been discussing the question of increasing the number of their country's pilgrims according to their

own wishes, despite instructions announced by the Kingdom before and after the time when their pilgrims staged subversive and anarchist demonstrations, as in 1987 and before.

The source added that the competent Saudi authorities had reaffirmed to them their unchangeable stance vis-a-vis this issue—to adhere to the fixed quotas allocated to Iran and not to allow demonstrations, cheering, or raising placards. The source at the Hajj Ministry went on to say the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has declared more than once its readiness to welcome 45000 Iranian pilgrims in accordance with the resolution, and insists on adherence by the pilgrims to the instructions and Islamic ethics pertaining to the pilgrimage, to which the said resolution referred.

The source stressed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by its declaration it transmitted through its media, and which was quoted by Arab, Islamic, and international media, has refuted all claims and allegations Iran and its media continue to make and insist on making—that the Kingdom prevents Muslims of Iran to perform this rite.

The Kingdom also would like to stress its eagerness to serve and care for the Iranian pilgrims by providing them with all means of comfort, as it does for all those who come to the Holy Land for the pilgrimage from all countries of the world. The source commented on the contents of a message issued by the Islamic Consultative Assembly [the Majles] in Iran and broadcast 11 April by Tehran Radio in Persian and described those contents as being mere trivialities and falsehood, as the letter was not objective and made no mention of the facts; the contents supposed Iran would not abide by the resolution, which fixed the Iranian pilgrims' quota.

The responsible source of the Hajj and Awqaf Ministry deplores the passage in the letter which says: "The Saudi authorities must leave the Iranian pilgrims free to perform the rites of pilgrimage in accordance with the fatwa and instructions of Khomeyni."

The source says, commenting on this passage: "There is nothing in Islam that says any Muslim should follow anyone's instructions concerning worship, aside from the instructions emanating from Almighty God, which must not be interpreted and distorted according to specific whims and aims".

The source further says: "If the rulers of Tehran were sincere in their eagerness to follow the instructions and advice of Khomeyni, then for them we reveal the text of the letter received by the Minister of Hajj and Awqaf Abd al-Wahhab Abd al-Wasi', sent to him in 1979 by the Iranian ambassador to the Kingdom, Muhammad Jawad Radhawi, the text of which says:

"The leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, has issued an order to all Iranian pilgrims urging them to stick to the religious rules and to governing laws of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also ordered them not to hold Salat al-Jama'a [group prayers] in homes. He urged them to take part in the Friday prayers and in Muslim group prayers, and warned them against touching and kissing [the black stone, the Ka'ba]. He also ordered them to be bound by the rules of Sunni Muslims during the pilgrimage rites".

The source also revealed a memorandum received by the Foreign Ministry from the Iranian Embassy in the Kingdom No. 87-1—2120, dated 1981, in the text of which the embassy says:

"The embassy has the honor of informing the respected ministry that His Grace Imam Khomeyni has issued his instructions to the Iranian pilgrims to work for securing unity in the ranks of Muslims, and to avoid any action that would cause dissensions among Muslims. Likewise, his grace ordered the Iranian pilgrims to perform group prayers and Friday prayers in mosques, behind Saudi Imams of group prayers".

The responsible source denied the allegation repeated by the Iranian news media claiming falsely, wrongly, and unjustly that the Saudi authorities had killed Iranian pilgrims to the holy house of God.

The source said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms anew the contents of the complementary statement the Interior Ministry issued 1 August 1987 that the victims who fell during the noisy demonstrations staged by the Iranian pilgrims during the afternoon of the previous day did so as a result of the retreat of the demonstrators in an unruly and haphazard way, as God threw fear into their hearts and made them return and flee disappointed. On the other hand, the source recalled the statement issued on 6 August 1987 by the heads of 16 Arab and Islamic medical missions, in which they reaffirmed that following the acts of violence carried out by a group of Iranians, the injuries sustained by some and the victims who fell was the result of the retreat of the anarchist march backward in a strong surge, which led to many people sustaining injuries and falling victim. The official source at the Ministry of Hajj and Awqaf, in conclusion, warned against any maneuvers or intentions by anyone at all that may violate the security of the pilgrims, which is an indivisible part of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia itself. The source called on the Iranian government to fathom the real dimensions of the hajj and account that it is pure worship of God alone and abiding by His doctrines and refraining from what He had ordered; the Tehran government should not use its media to cause confusion to the discipline of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the question of quotas allocated to each Islamic state during the pilgrimage, as the Kingdom will not revoke this resolution on which Muslims were unanimous.

Kingdom 'Concerned' About Oil Price Slump

LD1604005390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2340 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Apr (SPA)—Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir said in a statement to

SPA today that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is concerned over slumping prices in oil markets, and it believes adherence to the production ceiling fixed by the OPEC conference last November, as well as the quotas fixed for member countries, is an extremely important matter."

Minister Nazir further said the current situation not only harms all producers, but also diminishes the chances for an expected improvement in prices in the second half of this year.

His excellency also said: "The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is currently holding the necessary contacts with the OPEC member countries to return production to the fixed ceilings, and the Kingdom hopes these contacts will result in fulfilment of its aim: a return of stability to the markets."

United Arab Emirates

11 Iranian 'Infiltrators' Arrested 15 Apr

LD1504132590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0946 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Dubai, April 15 (KUNA)—Dubai police Sunday arrested 11 Iranians who tried to enter the United Arab Emirates (UAE) illegally.

The infiltrators were arrested when they arrived in a launch which carried them to this emirate from the other side of the Gulf.

In a related development, police apprehended 23 people for residing unlawfully in the country.

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Returns From Baghdad Visit

JN1404123890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member, returned to Sanaa last night after a short visit to Iraq, during which he conveyed a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, expressing solidarity with fraternal Iraq against the fabricated campaign waged by the Zionist media and some Western countries. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Returns From Syrian Visit 15 Apr

JN1504135790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, returned to Sanaa this morning after a brief visit to the Syrian Arab Repbulic. [passage omitted]

Der'i Against SHAS Vote for Peres Government

TA1504133890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Minister Arye Der'i has notified Shim'on Peres that in view of the developments of the last few weeks, he will not be able to recommend to the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Council of Torah Scholars to vote in favor of a Peres-led government.

Der'i made these remarks during a meeting at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem. He added the talk with Peres had been acrimonious and harsh, and that Knesset Members Peres and Rabin intend to confer with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef in a bid to persuade him to change his mind. Our correspondent points out Rabbi Yosef currently is staying at the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem.

After the meeting with Der'i, Mr. Peres said if he fails to form a government, there will be elections. He reacted scornfully to the notion Yitzhaq Rabin, rather than he, should be appointed to form a government on behalf of the Alignment.

Knesset Member Moshe Shahal still is optimistic and believes the 15-day reprieve will enable Shim'on Peres to form a government. He told our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz that even after the Labor Party Central Committee convention on Thursday, efforts would not center on personal questions, and that the key issue would continue to be the wish to arrive at a political solution.

Likud Lobby Forming To Block Moda'i Agreement

TA1604115090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpts] A group of Knesset Members [MK's] from both the Likud's Herut and Liberal factions have established a joint lobby to prevent endorsement of the agreement between the Likud and the Moda'i group at the Likud convention scheduled for 19 April.

The members of the lobby are MK's Binyamin Begin, 'Uzi Landau, Uri'el Linn, Ari'el Weinstein, and Yehuda Perah. The lobby will convene its first meeting tomorrow. [passage omitted]

MK Linn said the Likud-breakaway agreement is humiliating and despicable, adding it will destroy the Likud, just as the Liberal Party was once destroyed. At any rate, the lobby opposing the agreement will demand a secret ballot be conducted at the Likud convention so the delegates will be able to freely vote without fearing the watchful eyes of the Likud ministers, and to enable an accurate count of the number of voters.

Sikari Threatens To Assassinate President Herzog

LD1504131690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1215 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Tel Aviv, Apr 15 (TANJUG)—Israeli police have tightened security around President Chaim Herzog's residence after the secret religious-terrorist Jewish Sikari organization threatened to assassinate him and his family members.

The organization's motive was the president's decision to extend by 15 days the mandate of Labour leader Shimon Peres to form a new cabinet.

In the last two years the Sikari organization has been the focus of public concern, as its members killed two Palestinians in Old Jerusalem and set to fire apartments and cars possessed by several Israeli leftists and two journalists who advocated a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Palestinians.

Israeli police also improved security for several primarily Labour-bloc members of the Knesset who had these days received threatening letters.

Further on Dole, U.S. Senate Delegation Visit

Shamir Comments on Talks

TA1304180190 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor on 13 April in Shamir's office—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Mr. Shamir, this morning you conferred with a group of U.S. senators who have been touring some Arab countries. Did they relay any messages from Arab leaders to you?

[Shamir] I did not receive messages. The senators, who are very prominent in the U.S. Senate—particularly Republican Minority Leader Robert Dole, the senior Jewish senator, Mr. Metzenbaum, and others—spoke more about their impressions from their visit to various Arab countries such as Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, but they did not bring any messages with them. In fact, they spoke more about relations between Israel and the United States than on relations between Israel and the Arab countries.

[Ganor] Did you get the impression Israel's relations with the United States remain unchanged?

[Shamir] I would not say that. They are our friends, of course, and they spoke very candidly. They told us here and there some things are not very positive and should be amended, and that relations should be restored to the peak they once were at.

[Ganor] Does the latest Iraqi military buildup worry you?

[Shamir] Indeed, Iraq is altogether a cause for concern given its potential, emphasis on military power, pursuit of nonconventional weapons, and its extremist leader.

[Ganor] What is our attitude to the Iraqi threats?

[Shamir] We take them seriously. We should be ready on the one hand, and take political action on the other, to make all the countries bring pressure to bear on Iraq to quit this path.

[Ganor] What about the Iraqi president's call or proposal to demilitarize the region of lethal weapons?

[Shamir] This is what we proposed a long time ago. For years we have been proposing to enter bilateral and direct negotiations with any Arab country on the demilitarization of this region of lethal weapons.

[Ganor] Does this proposal look more realistic and feasible at present?

[Shamir] What the Arabs propose is very general and abstract, whereas what I propose requires bilateral negotiations for real peace. Nevertheless, we accept such a proposal.

[Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, assuming you continue to be prime minister, how do you intend to promote the peace process in the next few weeks?

[Shamir] We must go ahead, and the only way to do so at the moment is to pursue the talks with the U.S. Government, to encourage and persuade our U.S. friends to accept our ideas as formulated in our peace plan, and continue to work together for the implementation of our proposal.

[Ganor] In other words, to give a reply to the questions posed by Secretary of State Baker.

[Shamir] That is a mere detail. I do not think everything revolves around some laconic and simple answer to a question. Some important issues must be clarified and elucidated, first and foremost within Israel—if there is no national unity government, that will be simpler—and later between us and the United States before we proceed to talk to the representatives of the Arabs.

[Ganor] Do you expect and wholeheartedly believe the peace plan you proposed a year ago still has a chance?

[Shamir] I have no doubt whatsoever about it.

[Ganor] The plan will not be changed in any way?

[Shamir] There is no need to change it.

Meet Palestinian Notables

JN1504105190 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] A U.S. Senate delegation, led by Republican leader Robert Dole, met with Palestinian figures at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem today. Our correspondent has learned these figures were Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Sari Nusaybah, Ghassan al-Khatib, Zahirah Kamal, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, and Dr. Hisham al-'Awartani. They expressed their acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan to initiate an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, provided that the Palestinians' pan-Arab rights are preserved.

Senator Dole and his colleagues had earlier met with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who stressed he was very interested in maintaining the rights of all communities in the capital, and that he objected to the extremists' actions. Kollek asked the guests not to link the capital with the territories.

Abu-'Ayyash Comments on Meeting

JN1504131390 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] A U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator Robert Dole met with 10 Palestinian figures at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem yesterday. Colleague Ibrahim Shahid was there.

[Shahid] The Palestinian figures' meeting with the Senate delegation, led by Republican Minority Leader Robert Dole, lasted for more than two hours. The Palestinians were Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Zakariya al-Agha, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, Ghassan al-Khatib, Hisham 'Awartani, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zahirah Kamal.

They handed the U.S. delegation a memorandum explaining the situation in the region and the hopes for peace. Following the meeting, they refused to make individual statements for reporters and said Radwan Abu-'Ayyash would represent them at a news conference held immediately across from the U.S. Consulate.

In an exclusive interview, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said:

[Begin recording] [Abu-'Ayyash] In my opinion, the meeting was productive. We conveyed to him the Palestinian viewpoint on the political issue and stressed the Palestinian constants that could lead to peace in the region. We said Israeli intransigence does not help the peace process. We said the United States needed to play an important role to force, or mediate with, the Israeli Government so it will deal with peace.

[Shahid] Were there any important points you conveyed to the U.S. senator?

[Abu-'Ayyash] We handed him a memo containing details of the Palestinian position. We told him peace cannot be achieved except through dialogue with the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Senator Robert Dole and his delegation showed understanding of the Palestinian position. We also explained to him what is happening vis-a-vis human rights and the economic situation.

[Shahid] Did you touch on the formation of an Israeli government and the suspension of the peace process?

[Abu-'Ayyash] We did not touch on the formation of the Israeli Government, although we hope a prime minister and an Israeli Government capable of making a brave peace will emerge.

[Shahid] Senator Robert Dole holds well-known positions on Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and U.S. aid. Did you discuss this with him?

[Abu-'Ayyash] We explained to him our position on Jerusalem. We consider Jerusalem a divided Arab city, and we cannot consider real or conducive to peace what took place at the U.S. Senate. On the contrary, what happened created obstacles. The issue of the city of Jerusalem should be discussed in negotiations between the PLO and Israel. [end recording]

Committee Linked To House Purchases in Old City

TA1504155090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The Ministerial Committee on the Status of Bequests to the State has been involved in the purchase of houses for Jews in the Old City of Jerusalem. Confirming this to our correspondent, Minister Avner Sciaki of the National Religious Party pointed out the legal status of united Jerusalem provides for the settlement of Jews in all parts of the city.

The Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman confirmed the ministerial committee in question has a pending resolution to help preserve national and historic sites in the capital.

Hungarian Premier-Designate on Ties With Israel

TA1504080790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Apr 90 p A1

["Exclusive" report from Budapest by Yehuda Lahav]

[Excerpt] The new Hungarian Government will continue to foster ties with Israel. In certain areas, furthermore, such as agricultural modernization, it regards Israel as a model to be emulated. The above was stated by Yoszef Antal, Hungarian prime minister-designate, in an exclusive interview with HA'ARETZ.

"We aspire to have balanced diplomatic relations with Israel. I am convinced there are good chances for further development of relations between the two countries, as well as between social organizations and private individuals. We will work toward attaining this end," said Antal.

The Hungarian prime minister-designate said he would respond favorably to an invitation by the Israeli Government to visit the country. He pointed out he had been given a personal invitation from the Yad Vashem holocaust memorial as a token of gratitude for his father's role in saving Jews during the holocaust.

Antal was asked whether he thinks the new Hungarian Parliament should copy the GDR Parliament's example and start its activity by seeking the forgiveness of the Jewish people. In reply Antal said that back in 1946, the Hungarian Parliament, in a ceremonious session, passed a special law condemning the persecution of Jews and decided in principle on reparations for the Hungarian Jews. Last year, related Antal, the Hungarian press published the full text of that law. "To the best of my recollection, between 1949 and 1990 the GDR took no action in this vein," said Antal. [passage omitted]

Gaza Settlement Groundwork Begins in 'Few Days'

TA1504155690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The groundwork at the site earmarked for the settlement of Dugit in the northern part of the Gaza Strip and for the establishment of a temporary camp for the settlers will begin within the next few days with the defense establishment's approval.

Tzvi Hendel, head of the Hof 'Azza Regional Council, said the construction of the temporary camp will take a few weeks; it will initially be inhabited by five to 10 families.

Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned the approval for the establishment of Dugit's temporary quarters was given thanks to the intervention of Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs. Dugit is the sixth of the eight settlements included in the national unity government's coalition agreement. The remaining two settlements will not be set up in the next few months due to land problems.

March CPI Up 1.2 Percent; Meridor, Qeysar React

TA1504120290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The Consumer Price Index [CPI] rose by 1.2 percent in March. This increase was noted in all CPI areas except clothing and footwear, which featured seasonal discounts. The greatest jump, 2.2 percent, was registered in housing costs.

The CPI increase was lower than expected. The Finance Ministry expected a higher increase as a result of the currency devaluation and the rise in the value added tax. It appears the current economic recession led to reduced prices and, subsequently, to a moderate rise in the CPI. The impact of Passover sales will be reflected only in April's CPI.

Upon the release of the CPI, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported that after-tax expenditures for an average urban family now amount to 3,150 shekels.

Minister Dan Meridor, the minister responsible for the Finance Ministry in the current caretaker government, admitted the feebleness of the economy and reduced demand had played a part in keeping the CPI down. Meridor expressed the hope a government soon would be

established, and a full-time finance minister would be appointed. This would permit the orderly planning of economic policy.

Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar said the low CPI constitutes an achievement which should be attributed to the economic steps taken by the Finance Ministry on the eve of the coalition crisis, and to the agreements the Histadrut signed with the government, which calmed the situation. Qeysar told our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch the main problem today is the uncertainty regarding the government, adding that the current state of affairs may bring about a danger of renewed inflation and an exacerbation in unemployment.

Reports on Arrests After Cocaine, Heroin Seizures

TA1504105590

[Editorial Report] Writing on page A9 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 9 April, Ben Kaspit reports policemen in Lod uncovered a drug distribution center near their station. After a short stakeout, "detectives broke into the station, seizing 120 grams of heroin and arresting three delinquents."

Citing an ITIM report, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 April writes on page A4 that "after convicting Roni Eliyahu of smuggling 500 grams of cocaine from Colombia in the head of a stuffed animal, the Tel Aviv District Court sentenced the 29-year-old man from Holon to five years in prison and an additional two-year suspended sentence."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 13 April, in a page 10 report by ITIM, writes: "A drug messenger who had concealed 0.5 kg of heroin in his underwear was sentenced to six years in prison by the Tel Aviv District court." The report adds that an investigation revealed the drug had been purchased from a Bedouin dealer and was intended for sale in northern Israel.

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 11 April, in a page A13 report by Roni Sofer, writes: "A team of detectives from the 'Arad police have apprehended some 34 grams of material believed to be heroin, which was concealed on the body of a 27-year-old resident of al-Tayyibah." "The young man, 'Imad A'zami, had purchased the drug from a local Bedouin dealer."

Newspaper on 13-14 Apr Incidents in Territories

TA1504093390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Apr 90 p 2

[By David Regev and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] It was a stormy weekend in the Gaza Strip: An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was hurt by stones, some 50 Gazans were wounded by shots and beatings, and six other locals were beaten by masked men.

The background to the disturbances: Tomorrow is the second anniversary of the assassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Arab sources report there were grave disturbances in the region Friday and Saturday, especially in schools and on main intersections, in response to slogans painted on walls calling for unrest on the anniversary.

School children rioted in schools in Khan Yunus, and in Gaza city they incited soldiers and hurled stones at them. The soldiers broke into and used water cannons, rubber bullets, and live ammunition to disperse the unrest, according to Arab sources, who said 35 students were wounded by beatings and rubber bullets. Thirteen other school children were shot in other incidents in the Strip.

A border policeman was hurt in the face by stones hurled at him during a disturbance in Gaza. He was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. [passage omitted]

General Curfew To Be Imposed on Gaza Strip

TA1504161490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] A general curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip as of 0400 [0100 GMT] on 16 April to prevent riots on the second anniversary of the death of leading terrorist Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. This morning curfews already were imposed on Rafah, some refugee camps, and a few Gaza neighborhoods. Our correspondent Arye Gus adds that studies in schools throughout the Gaza Strip were disrupted today.

In Nabulus, a procession of 200 people set out from a local church to protest Jewish settlement in a building in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem and to mark the second anniversary of the killing of Abu-Jihad.

Soldier Hurt; Death Marked; Hamas Issues Leaflet

TA1604100090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured in the leg this morning when a stone was thrown at him from a roof in the Nabulus casbah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports local residents told him four Arabs were wounded by plastic and rubber bullets.

Processions were conducted last night and this morning in various towns in Judaea and Samaria to mark the second anniversary of the assassination of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], former deputy of Yasir 'Arafat. Many shops were closed in Nabulus, and cars were stopped for several minutes in Tulkarm.

A leaflet published by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was disseminated in various locations in Judaea and Samaria this morning. The leaflet sanctioned unification with the other Palestinian movements, but only the conditions stipulated by the Islamic Movement. The leaflet also castigated Arab leaders who support a government led by Shim'on Peres, and explained that a narrow government would be powerless to act and would only exact a heavy price from the Arabs.

Protest at Embassy Against 'U.S. Arrogance'

JN1404092390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 90 Second Edition pp 1, 18

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—Some 250 citizens took part in a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in Jordan yesterday evening.

The demonstrators carried placards condemning Israeli practices against the Palestinian Arab people, the latest of which was the attack against Christian clergymen in holy Jerusalem.

The demonstrators denounced U.S. arrogance and unlimited support for the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian Arab people.

They also expressed full rejection of the recent U.S. Senate resolution considering Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They stressed that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state and is part of the occupied Arab territories which no one will abandon. [In a similar but less detailed article, the Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 14 April, page 1, reports that the "protest action" was organized by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, "with the participation of Islamic and also Christian clergymen and organisations." The paper adds: "Marchers waved placards reading 'Enter Russian Jews, exit Christians,' 'Jesus is Palestinian,' and 'Jerusalem for all, not only armed Zionists.'" It also says that at the end of the protest, a "senior" U.S. Embassy representative received a memorandum addressed to the American administration.]

Bishop Ilya Khuri, PLO Executive Committee member, who was in the lead, said: Today we stand in front of the U.S. Embassy and raise these slogans so that all the Americans and all those revolving in the American orbit can read them. It is a protest demonstration on this day in which we recall the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which has become a symbol of the crucifixion of our nation and of the Palestinian people by the Zionist occupation forces, which Washington supports with all kinds of weapons. We protest the flagrant attacks against Christian clergymen in holy Jerusalem the day before yesterday.

Palestine National Council member 'Abd al-Jawad Salih said Israel will not comply by the peace process. Peace will only be possible when the Israeli enemy feels that the Arabs have a military option, he said.

Shaykh Rajab al-Tamimi, mufti of the Palestinian revolution, said continuing Israeli practices against the Palestinian people have no limits. These practices are supported by the United States and some West European countries, he added.

Deputy Mansur Sayf al-Din Murad called on the Arab countries to hold an emergency Arab summit to discuss the mounting Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He called for reviving the eastern front and building Arab military power to counter Israeli threats. Peace, he said, is not brought from a position of weakness because its basic logic is force.

Protesters Warn of Chaos if Jerusalem 'Judaized'

JN1504081190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (Petra)—[passage omitted] About 500 people protested outside the United States embassy in Amman Friday [13 April] against the Israel violence against Christian clergymen in Jerusalem.

The crowd of women, men and children was led by Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee member Ilya Khuri, who is also Anglican Bishop of Jordan, and Sheikh Rajab al-Tamimi, a Palestinian deportee and former chief justice of the city of Hebron in the West Bank.

A dozen riot police with shields, helmets and batons stood outside the embassy building but did not interfere and the crowd dispersed peacefully after the hour-long protest.

The Amman branch of the Washington-based American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which organised the march gave a senior embassy official a letter addressed to U.S. President George Bush.

"The assault on the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Jerusalem, and his followers and the forced occupation of a Christian hostel adjacent to the Church of the Sepulchre are further proof of Israel's intransigence and violation of human and moral rights of people of peace," the letter said. "It also further evidences Israel's intention and determination to Judaise Jerusalem, a city which is holy not only to Jews but also to Christians and Muslims."

"The recent resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate recognising 'unified' Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is an appeasement of the Israeli lobby in Washington and encourages further instability and disorder in the Holy Land. It is a serious departure from long-standing official American policy and contradicts the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1948 and the Hague Regulations of 1907. Needless to say, the Senate resolution also contravenes all United Nations resolutions pertinent to the Arab Israeli conflict and the status of Jerusalem," the letter said.

"Regardless of Israeli assertions and contentions, the international community has never accepted Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem. In whatever settlement emerges from the ongoing efforts for a negotiated peace in the Middle East, Israel can count on no support for its claim to sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem," it added.

"Such arrogance and open defiance of international legitimacy will lead to further anarchy and chaos. Void of any historic justification, Israel's persistent disregard for the feeling and sentiments of world Christians and Muslims and its attempts to raise questions over Christian and Muslim rights after centuries of continuity are totally inacceptable. If ancient prophecies are to be evoked to justify military conquests and occupation, then the world will find itself in a quagmire of disorder, danger and chaos," the letter warned.

PLO's 'Abbas: Senators' Visit Very 'Useful'

JN1404204090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Prime minister Mudar Badran has received Messrs. Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members, with the ambassador of the State of Palestine in attendance. More details in the following report by our political affairs correspondent, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Middle East developments, and the dangers inherent in Jewish immigration from East Europe to occupied Palestine, featured prominently in talks between the prime minister and the PLO delegation. They also discussed political coordination between Jordan and the PLO on regional developments. Emerging from the meeting, Mahmud 'Abbas spoke to reporters:

['Abbas] The Arabs are required not only to react to what occurred yesterday. There are attacks every day against Palestinian people, children, women, and the elderly, as well as against Muslim and Christian clergy. However, an attack against the Christian clergy is a new phenomenon that shows that the entire [Palestinian] people have become a thorn in Israel's side.

[Dhiyab] Mr. Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], is it possible to interpret statements made by the Republican Senate majority leader in Israel as an American reversal?

['Abbas] Mr. Dole gave an interpretation of the [Senate] resolution [on Jerusalem] saying it is binding neither on himself nor on the President. It amounts to relieving Congress from the pressure to sign the resolution, for once signed, it becomes law. It may be a kind of backtracking on the part of certain American quarters, having discovered that they not only made a mistake, but that they had no right to pass such a resolution, which is at loggerheads with stated U.S. policies—policies repeated over the years by American officials and Presidents, including Bush.

[Dhiyab] Has the American Senate delegation's visit to the region made any contribution to this reversal, if we can call it that?

['Abbas] To my mind, the visit.... [changes throught] The Egyptians said good things to the delegation. The same goes for what the delegation heard from his majesty and Jordanian officials. This has definitely changed the opinion of those who were there. They will influence their colleagues and get them to change their opinion. I, therefore, consider the visit to have been extremely useful. Most importantly, they went to Iraq. [end recording]

Welcomes Dole Statement

JN1504072490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 90 p 1

[Report by "a Jordan Times staff writer"]

[Excerpts] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss a working paper that defines future relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the basis of a formula for Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, a senior PLO official said here Saturday [14 April].

"The Question of Confederation, which is the most acceptable and likely formula to organise relations between the two sides, will be on the agenda for the two leaders in their next meeting in Amman," PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas told reporters.

Speaking after a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, 'Abbas expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the discussions held at the Prime Ministry. [passage omitted]

'Abbas welcomed a statement Friday [13 April] by U.S. Senate minority leader Robert Dole that he would try to reverse a recent Senate resolution recognising undivided Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

"I believe that some parties in America are backing up on their previous position after they discovered that they were not only mistaken but also that such a decision is none of their business," he said.

'Abbas also urged PLO leaders to further strengthen contacts with U.S. officials.

"Our meetings with American officials are not a waste of time, but are very beneficial since these officials get to know our views instead of only listening to one side," he said.

'Abbas appealed to the Palestinian people of the occupied Arab lands to stand fast in their resistance.

Islamic Group Writes Bush About Israeli 'Crimes'

JN1504093090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The Islamic Organizations and Societies Council has sent a letter to the U.S. President via the U.S. Embassy in Amman in which it says the United States is directly responsible for the atrocities and heinous crimes

committed by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories because of the military and financial support the United States extends to Israel.

The letter wonders about the justice in allowing the Soviet Union's Jews to emigrate and settle in Jerusalem, though neither these Jews nor their forefathers had ever known the Palestinian land, while, on the other hand, not allowing those recently expelled from their homes and farms by the force of U.S. weapons to return there!

The letter adds: You have entrenched the will for revenge in the heart of every Arab to the extent that a 10-year-old child and a 70-year-old man have begun to feel it is their duty to do something to harm your interests in the region. You are holding talks with the presidents of Arab states, and they assure you your interests and those of NATO in the region are secure. If you knew, however, the reality of what is raging in the hearts of the Islamic and Arab people—a feeling of taking vengeance against you and a denunciation of your policy—you would find you are taking the wrong course. In effect, it will lead to a complete loss of your footholds in the region.

The letter asserts: You are responsible before God for every drop of blood being spilled by an elderly person, a woman, or a child on the land of Palestine, or for bloods spilled before in Vietnam, Hiroshima, and elsewhere, because you have practiced killing with your own hands at times and gave arms to the Jews and others to do the killing and destruction at other times.

We clearly realize the policy of the United States and that of the NATO states toward the Arab East is built on maintaining the Arab people's weakness, fragmentation, and division, and on making them dependent on the West, even in their quest for a loaf of bread.

Your military and political intervention to prevent any Arab state from arming itself with defensive weapons enabling it to protect itself from aggression, while supplying Israel with the most modern and complex weapons, stems from your aforementioned policy, the letter maintains.

The letter adds there are no problems between the Arab nation and the United States, except for the Palestine question. Were this problem to be tackled in a just manner and according to the Security Council and UN resolutions, there would not be a disagreement between the Arabs and the United States. The United States' open bias toward Zionist aggression, and its hostility toward the Palestinian individuals' rights, make up the primary and single problem between Arabs and Americans.

The letter concludes: Peace has become an international demand. You and the Soviet Union have made some steps on the road of peace. The Middle East has the right to enjoy peace, and the Jewish people need peace and security more than the Arabs do. Maybe history will be able to record your greatest achievement in the 20th century, which is the establishment of peace on the land of peace.

Ties With Syria, Iraqi-Syrian Relations Viewed

JN1404082290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Apr 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Toward a New Arab Situation"]

[Text] We are watching the constant growth in Jordanian-Syrian relations with a great deal of satisfaction and optimism. His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President al-Asad give prominent attention to these relations as the cornerstone of the unified Arab position sought by all Arabs. The visit to Damascus today by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is part of this approach. Al-Qasim will meet with his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', for talks on basic Arab issues and relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to promote them. The two Arab ministers will address bolstering common Arab action and creating a unified Arab stance that will enable Arabs to deal with challenges in a manner that safeguards their rights and interests.

Undoubtedly, every step by Amman and Damascus to boost cooperation adds to pan-Arab strength and provides impetus for further pan-Arab cohesion and better Arab performance. It is no secret that a renewed flow of pan-Arab blood in Syrian and Iraqi veins is a pressing Arab aspiration, especially since this would support the Arab position with a material and moral power that the nation now needs more than ever before.

It is also no secret that the accelerating developments and challenges around us indicate that the Arabs have no choice but to shoulder their responsibilities in defending their present and the future of their coming generations. They have to race with time in mustering their own capabilities to counter the threats.

From this premise, and in light of the pan-Arab weight of Arab Damascus and Baghdad, the Arab masses believe it is high time the sinister, long-standing wager by the Israeli aggressors and their allies on the impossibility of a meeting between Damascus and Baghdad, was foiled. Yes, it is high time to foil this wager; it is high time that Damascus and Baghdad restored the distinctive pulse to the region—the pulse that was long absent. And, consequently, it is now time to consolidate the Arab masses' hopes in reestablishing the eastern front, redressing the balance of power in the region, and firming up others' conviction that the Arab call for a just and comprehensive peace in the region is neither a distress call nor a begging appeal. Rather, it is a call supported by a just and enlightened force, and by determination to restore usurped Arab rights, whether in the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza, or other territories.

Reform Program Agreement Reached With World Bank

JN1504103490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Apr 90 Second Edition p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani]

[Text] Amman—An agreement was recently pieced together between the Jordanian Government and the World Bank on the sectorial reform program encompassing the industrial and trade sectors with a view to effecting economic growth based on internal resources.

This program requires the adoption of a medium-term strategy to help achieve financial stability, improve exports, bolster the competitiveness of the domestic export and substitutive industries, strengthen the institutional framework needed for improved investment, encourage exports, and protect the less fortunate social strata from the short-term negative impact that might result from the implementation of this program.

The program provides for rationalizing customs tariff regulations to allow the standardization of all imports customs fees and make minimum customs fees five percent and maximum 60 percent during the first phase; the maximum would go to 50 percent during the second phase. The program also ends the ban imposed on the importation of some materials and also amends the investment incentive law to allow the scrapping of some nonobjective elements of the law and also simplify the flow of administrative decisionmaking.

The program also provides for a merger of the Free Zones Corporation and the Industrial Estate Corporation to enhance the effectiveness of the two corporations, develop the export financing program, and incorporate some amendments into the industrial criteria program.

According to this agreement, the World Bank will grant Jordan a $150-million loan to help reform industrial and trade policies. The loan will be repaid over 17 years with a five-year grace period and at a variable interest rate.

Energy Minister on Oil Prospecting, New Plans

JN1504112290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Apr 90 p 8

[Report by Samir al-Hiyari]

[Excerpts] Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabit al-Tahir has said that the government has drawn up a comprehensive national program to discover petroleum and other hydrocarbon resources, with dependence on national efforts as represented, in the first place, by the work of the Natural Resources Authority, and then by cooperation with other Arab and foreign petroleum companies in carrying out discovery and prospecting operations.

Al-Tahir added, in an interview with AL-RA'Y, that prospecting operations thus far have resulted in the discovery of limited amounts of oil at Hamzah Field. Traces of oil have also been spotted in other areas. However, we need more research and studies. The Natural Resources Authority has drawn up a special program to continue with oil prospecting in accordance with scientific bases and following the completion of relevant studies.

It is true that the amounts of oil we are currently producing—200-400 barrels a day, and about 10 million cubic feet of gas a day—are somewhat modest amounts. These amounts, however, provide a satisfactory indicator to keep us working toward more discoveries. Jordan is exerting unceasing efforts to benefit from the experience of fraternal Arab countries which have extensive experience in gas and petroleum to enhance Jordanian capabilities in this regard, the minister explained.

Asked about the relationship between the general political situation and oil discoveries in Jordan, the minister said:

We do not tend to link prospecting operations with the political situation because the prospecting program is governed by purely national economic demands, and follows scientific and practical bases relating to prospecting and discovery. This also applies to the activity of the foreign companies cooperating with Jordan. [passage omitted]

Asked how the mineral discoveries provide support for the Jordanian economy, al-Tahir said:

Jordan's mineral wealth significantly contributes to its economy. This is represented by our phosphate production, which amounted to about 6 million tonnes in 1989, and our potash production, which amounted to 1.2 million tonnes for the same year. This is in addition to our production of cement, ceramics, and glass, which are the output of the mineral industries. The government is currently embarking on a national plan to provide an opportunity for those investors—be they Jordanians or brother Arab investors—to develop the various mineral industries, such as the Dead Sea compounds and other raw materials like marble and feldspar, especially those raw materials that are of high quality and promise economic viability. Jordan also welcomes any Arab effort to achieve integration and coordination, and to build the basis for Arab production. [passage omitted]

'Informed Sources' Expect 2 Hostages' Release

NC1604103090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Informed sources in Beirut expect that two U.S. or Western hostages being held in Lebanon will be freed in the next few days on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr.

These sources have affirmed that contacts are now under way with all parties concerned in Lebanon and abroad as part of the efforts to release all Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Organization Threatens Revenge for Jerusalem Attack

NC1504172890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The Jihad Movement—Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem] today threatened to take revenge for the Jewish attack on the Greek Orthodox patriarch in the Old City of Jerusalem. This Muslim group expressed its anger at the actions of the Israeli police against Greek Orthodox Patriarch Dhiodhoros and at the settlement of 150 Jews in a building belonging to Christians in the Old City.

The same group claimed responsibility for killing nine Israeli tourists in an attack on a bus in Egypt last February.

A spokesman for the group told REUTER by telephone: We lived together with the Christians in peace and security under Islamic rule until the beginning of this century. We announce that this attack will not disappear into the wind. We will wage our jihad until victory or martyrdom.

Al-Hirawi Holds Talks With Al-Asad in Damascus

LD1404160390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1341 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 14 (KUNA)—A Lebanese newspaper unveiled here Saturday that President Ilyas al-Hirawi visited Damascus earlier this week and met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Quoting "reliable" sources, AL-SAFIR said that Al-Hirawi secretly visited Syria four days ago and held intensive talks with President al-Asad and his deputy, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The Syrian-Lebanese summit, the paper added, discussed the situation in the Lebanese capital and Arab League's efforts to end fighting between the militias.

The talks also tackled proposals by leader of the Lebanese militias Samir Ja'ja' concerning turning over barracks and areas (?under) his forces control to the Lebanese Government, according to the paper.

This is the second trip by al-Hirawi to Syria following his election as president last November.

Sources Cited on Al-Hirawi Visit to Damascus

NC1404072690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Press sources revealed this morning that President Ilyas al-Hirawi paid a secret visit to Damascus four days ago and held a bilateral summit with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The sources said they discussed new developments in Lebanon in light of the Arab tripartite committee's efforts and the political and security proposals made by the Lebanese Forces with regard to handing over the army barracks and the official departments to the legitiamte authority.

Lebanese leading circles have been cited as saying that upon his return to Beirut the president sent a detailed political message to Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' containing the legitimate authority's concept of the mechanism for regaining the eastern area and the conditions that will guarantee the success of such a step.

The same circles said that in his message, President al-Hirawi advised Ja'ja' to join the peace process wholeheartedly and not to depend on foreign and regional illusions of pledges that conceal an intention to continue hostility toward Syria and its role in Lebanon.

The circles believe that the legitimate authority has preferred not to go along too far with what Ja'ja' wants before obtaining sufficient political and military guarantees to ensure that the legitimate authority and its army will not fall into any security and administrative traps.

According to the same circles, the legitimate authority has informed the Lebanese Forces that it reject's Ja'ja's statement that he is acting to extricate President al-Hirawi from the lap of the western area. The legitimate authority viewed this statement as a sign that does not encourage the efforts to deal with the situation in eastern area.

Ibrahimi Confers With Al-Hirawi, Comments

NC1304122890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi at 1100 today. Yesterday, Ibrahimi visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss.

After his one-and-one-half-hour meeting with President al-Hirawi, Ibrahimi said: As I said yesterday, I am holding consultations with the brothers in Lebanon and this is a very important stage. During our discussions with his excellency the president, we dealt with Lebanon's general and private affairs. His excellency the president briefed us in detail about what is happening in Lebanon these days and we briefed him about what took place during the Arab ministerial committee meeting in Morocco. We also informed the president that the committee's three member states will begin presenting the

aid Lebanon requires in the field of equipping the army and other fields. We will continue our contacts, God willing.

Asked about the reports that he would have direct or indirect contacts with former Army Commander Michel 'Awn, Ibrahimi said: No, I will have no such contacts.

Ibrahimi Meets Sfayr, Makes Statement

NC1404115690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Statement by Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi following his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr in Bkirki on 14 April—recorded]

[Text] We discussed the present and future on the basis of the Arabian efforts made for a year now. These efforts were first exerted within the framework of the six-man committee and later within the tripartite committee. We have said that the al-Ta'if agreement was not the first, nor will it be the last, stage in this continuous work. The Arab peace plan was named after the al-Ta'if agreement because the al-Ta'if agreement was an important stage. There is no harm if this plan is identified with the al-Ta'if stage as long as we do not forget that it was not the first nor will it be the last stage.

What happened in al-Ta'if is that the brother deputies laid the general foundation for ending a war and building a future. They worked seriously in al-Ta'if. Their work was difficult and sometimes their discussions were sharp. They discussed the war in their every word and sentence and they came up with this agreement. In other words, they reached a consensus. I heard that this consensus did not entirely satisfy anyone. However, it is not meant to anger anyone. I believe that the al-Ta'if agreement does not entirely satisfy anyone. However, it does no gross injustice to anyone to make it unacceptable.

Legitimacy was established in the country in this way. The institutions began functioning again. There is a chamber of deputies, and the deputies have resumed their work from the chamber's original premises. Furthermore, there is a president of the republic and a government now.

This process is still in its first stages. It is clear that it has stumbled but that there is a very good chance to put it back on track in order to resume this peace process. I believe I said four or five months ago that we hope that this peace process will exclude no one and that no one will opt out of this process. We reiterate this and we are ready to provide every possible effort, opinion, and help in this regard.

All the papers mention today that this is the 16th anniversary of the current most regrettable crisis. On this Christian holiday and these blessed days of Ramadan we implore God that they will mark not the last year but the last month and last days of this crisis.

Ja'ja' Meets Ibrahimi, Makes Statement

NC1504150090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that the Lebanese Forces are entirely ready to help in the implementation of the Greater Beirut plan without any delay or question, so that the legitimate institutions of the Lebanese state alone may take over responsibility for security in Greater Beirut. He said: We are entirely willing to proceed with this plan as soon as it is proposed. We are also willing to proceed step by step toward the goal of restoring the legitimate Lebanese state's authority over all Lebanese territories. He noted that action now in moving in this direction. He expressed his hope that the citizens' sufferings will be alleviated and that everyone will take a positive stand, because this is the only direction in which to proceed.

In his statement following a two-hour meeting with Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, which was attended by Muhammad al-Azrawal, the Arab envoy's aide, Dr. Ja'ja said: The Lebanese Forces military organization is not an end in itself. It is at the disposal of the homeland and the people, and consequently at the disposal of the state and its institutions. As soon as the framework for a comprehensive solution in Lebanon is proposed—through which the country will retrieve its independence, sovereignty, and freedom—and agreement is reached by all Lebanese on the new state, then our military organization will be at the disposal of this plan.

He added: From this premise, we are very willing to discuss the new Lebanon with the Lebanese citizens within the framework of the al-Ta'if accord. In the same way, we will not maintain our military organization when we reach a solution.

Through Ibrahimi, Dr. Ja'ja' saluted the tripartite Arab committee for all its efforts to rectify the situation in Lebanon. He said: Some people seem not to be at all satisfied with the committee's efforts. Others are asking more from it. But I say very frankly that if the Lebanese had exerted parallel efforts to those of the committee, then we would have made much progress. He expressed the hope that the committee would continue its mission in the interest of Lebanon and the Arab countries.

Dr. Ja'ja' went on to say: No one can take a negative stand on the process of reconciliation which was started by the tripartite committee. The al-Ta'if accord undoubtedly requires a debate, but, at the same time, without the accord no one can make a start toward achieving a solution. As the committee members have repeatedly said, the matter is up to the Lebanese within the framework of their legitimate and constitutional institutions.

Speaking to correspondents after his meeting with Dr. Ja'ja', Ibrahimi said: The meeting focused on two points: the events that have been going on in the eastern area for more than two months, and ways for Lebanon to resume

the peace process within the framework of legitimacy and the al-Ta'if accord. He stressed that the meeting with Dr. Ja'ja' was necessary, adding: I am happy because the meeting took place and because it was useful. We benefited a lot from it. He noted that the al-Ta'if accord is neither the first nor the last stage in the peace process.

Ja'ja' Interviewed on Al-Ta'if Agreement, 'Awn

JN1504165890 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Lebanese Forces chief Samir Ja'ja' by Nabih al-Burji in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Burji] Why is the war continuing in the eastern districts?

[Ja'ja'] The only reason is General 'Awn's intransigence and obstructionsim. He continues to insist on a monopoly in decisionmaking and on staying in the presidential palace in B'abda. He wants to remain in power and he is using the Army to that end. He is prepared to pursue his war of survival. [passage omitted]

[Al-Burji] Are you endorsing the al-Ta'if agreement in order to fight it from within?

[Ja'ja'] I am a realist. We now have an agreement that commands international and regional support. It follows that whichever party wants movement to take place will have to jump on the al-Ta'if agreement bandwagon. No one can afford to take on Syria, its Lebanese allies, and the international community. I, therefore, support a realistic approach to facts on the ground. Political action at the moment is possible only through dealing with so-called legitimacy, regardless of how one feels about the al-Ta'if agreement. [passage omitted]

[Al-Burji] You said recently that the Lebanese Forces [LF] are defending the state and its institutions. How, then, do you explain the LF occupation of the Foreign Ministry and the internal security forces buildings in al-Ashrifiyah?

[Ja'ja'] It was natural that this should happen. Gen. 'Awn is waging a full-scale war against us using state institutions to advance personal interests and promote the cause of the war. We, therefore, had to take control of the institutions so he could not exploit them against us. We will hand them over to President al-Hirawi and Gen. Lahhud, because they will not use them against us.

[Al-Burji] Are you willing to surrender the barracks to the 6th Brigade, for instance?

[Ja'ja'] I have stipulated no conditions for handing them over. But for the 6th Brigade to be deployed in the eastern districts under present circumstances would cause a political imbalance in the country. Such changes must be examined in a national context and in the context of the entire Lebanese crisis. This has nothing to do with our conflict with Michel 'Awn, nor with the reconstruction of state institutions in the eastern districts.

[Al-Burji] Will you return the weapons you seized when you overran Army positions?

[Ja'ja'] We took no weapons from the Army barracks. The bloody fight destroyed the hardware, and we took the rest.

[Al-Burji] If Gen. 'Awn refuses to surrender the Army barracks short of an attack by Gen. Lahhud forces, and the legitimate government requested intervention by Syrian forces, how would you react?

[Ja'ja'] We would oppose such intervention and fight it.

[Al-Burji] What do you think the solution is, then?

[Ja'ja'] In my opinion, 'Awn cannot continue that way for much longer.

[Al-Burji] How do you assess the present militiary situation?

[Ja'ja'] Much as I hate to speculate on such issues, I think that the man who boasted that he could destroy the LF in four to six hours is the biggest loser. As for us, we have never contemplated destroying the Army. The biggest loser, at the end of the day, is the Lebanese cause.

[Al-Burji] Do you foresee renewed hostilitites?

[Ja'ja'] 'Awn is politically and militarily bankrupt. But he might continue his suicidal attempts. He would do himself a favor by quitting.

[Al-Burji] So you are urging an opening up to all the Lebanese parties....

[Ja'ja'] Certainly....

[Al-Burji] Are you prepared for a dialogue with Elie Hubayqah?

[Ja'ja'] If Elie Hubayqah represents a certain party, or has a popular base, we are prepared to talk to him. But if he is merely a Syrian intelligence agent in Lebanon, it would be a pointless exercise. We may as well talk to Gen. Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon].

[Al-Burji] How do you view Gen. 'Awn's call for free elections in Lebanon?

[Ja'ja'] That is fine, but we must be realistic. It may be that present circumstances do not lend themselves to such a vote. However, one of these days, elections may be useful. I am all for it.

[Al-Burji] What do you think of the French position during the war of the eastern districts?

[Ja'ja'] The French took a balanced and level-headed position. They tried to convince Gen. 'Awn to surrender

power to President al-Hirawi and to pursue his political activity. Sadly, though, he failed to be convinced, and the French initiative ended there.

[Al-Burji] And the Vatican's stance?

[Ja'ja'] Good.

Beirut Radio Reports Ja'ja' Assassination Attempt

NC1304172990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] The AL-LIWA' newspaper reported today that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' has escaped an assassination attempt. It said the attempt took place in al-Ashrafiyah in the past two days and that one of his aides was injured. The paper did not report any further details.

'Awn Reportedly Seeking Talks With Arab Committee

NC1404185690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Sources close to the rebel officer [Michel 'Awn] have quoted him as expressing willingness to negotiate with the Arab tripartite committee in light of his message to the committee's members, which included his agreement to enter into a dialogue within the framework of the al-Ta'if agreement or some other framework. The radio station of the leader of the al-Yarzah ['Awn forces] gangs said this stand has been conveyed to French Ambassador Rene Ala and other diplomats and politicians. The station added that 'Awn informed these politicians that he is ready to resolve the situation in the eastern area on the basis of the six points agreed upon by the mediation committee.

Highly placed diplomatic sources in Beirut told QNA today that during the Arab tripartite committee's foreign ministers meeting in Rabat, Morocco insisted on the need to reopen a direct or indirect dialogue with Michel 'Awn. The agency said that this prompted the three foreign ministers to embark on an extensive discussion of this matter. The sources affirmed that Morocco also proposed that the Lebanese Government implement a security plan for greater Beirut and open a dialogue with 'Awn in light of the fact that he received some assistance from nationalist parties during his confrontation with the Lebanese Forces. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces' Malik on Cease-Fire Agreement

NC1304190290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1815 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] At a press conference this evening, Lebanese Forces Chief of Staff General Fu'ad Malik expressed hope that the cease-fire agreement reached on the occasion of Easter would stand, affirming that the Lebanese Forces will do their best to this effect, and underlining that the Lebanese resistance will spare no efforts to end this tragic situation.

Malik considered the al-Ta'if agreement as a way to the solution, which includes both positive and negative aspects. Commenting on contacts with the legal authorities, he said: The Lebanese Forces have decided to call on the legality to take over regions under Lebanese Forces control, a decision they could not take in the past. He added that although the legal authoritities answered favorably, the matter could not be implemented by pushing a button. Extensive measures must be implemented at the military and administrative levels to this effect, he added.

Malik also underlined the important role played by Bkirki in Christian decisionmaking, a role which was confiscated from the Maronite patriarch by force. Bkirki is the only one capable of reactivating all leaderships, he added, in view of reaching a unified stand.

Anti-'Awn Leaflets in 'Awn-Controlled Areas

NC1504063990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Leaflets were distributed in the areas controlled by General 'Awn yesterday. The leaflets said: O citizen, a year and a half has passed. Only four months of that time were spent at home and the rest of the time was in the shelters. A year and a half has passed. Only four months were spent working and the rest of the time was spent in searching for a livelihood and food. A year and a half has passed, only four months in school and university and the rest of time in ignorance, applauding, and demonstrating. A year and a half has passed, only four months of which were quiet, though irregularly, and the rest filled with bombardment, fire, and destruction.

A year and a half under Michel 'Awn's rule. This is the result, a catastrophe to society. It is time for this rule to end so that the catastrophe will end. It is time for Michel 'Awn to leave so that the nightmare will end.

Birri Holds U.S. Responsible for Events in Lebanon

NC1404084990 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has said that it is the eastern area that must join the legitimate authority and not vice versa. He emphasized that the army must take over Amal Movement's weapons and replace the Movement, especially in the south.

Minister Birri held the U.S. Administration responsible for the situation in Lebanon. He said that this administration supports Lebanese unity but at the same time it disregards the daily gradual devouring of the South.

He said that the danger threatening the al-Ta'if agreement does not stem from the eastern area's maneuvers but from those who signed it.

Birri Meets Al-Huss, Discusses Situation in South

NC1304153090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has contacted Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss to discuss today's report on the expulsion of the last Lebanese family residing in Shab'a farms.

Commenting on this issue, Birri said: I discussed the matter with Dr. al-Huss in his capacity as foreign minister. After obtaining the necessary reports, we should not only lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council, but also see that a Security Council meeting is called to take the necessary measures to preserve the South as well as the dignity of the UN Interim Forces in the area. The southern area is being devoured and annexed within sight of these forces, with the result that their credibility has become doubtful even to their supporters.

Minister Birri warned against failure to deal with this matter. He emphasized the need for recruitment. The army must be sent to the South, he said, so that we will not wake up one day to see yet another act of aggression, the beginning of which was not the stealing of the Nahr al-Litani waters. The settlement of the Jews arriving from the Soviet Union or Ethiopia will not be the last of such acts of aggression, he asserted.

Al-Tufayli on Greater Beirut Security Plan

NC1604073790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has stated: When they speak about security plans, including those for greater and smaller Beirut, they say that Hizballah will obstruct these plans. I say that we are the first to welcome the people's security and peace, but we will be the first to confront and fight the security plans like the 1982 security plan, when weapons were taken from the believers' hands and the people were massacred.

Abu-Hisham Assails Soviet Jews' Emigration

LD1404171990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Saiyid Husayn Musavi Abu-Hisham, leader of the Islamic Amal movement of Lebanon, called on all Muslims and Arabs to rise against the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. According to the Central News Unit, he added: Currently, with the uninterrupted emigration of the Jews, all the occupied territories and all other parts of the region are facing serious danger, and everyone should revolt [qiyam] in order to stop this flow. Abu-Hisham emphasized: America's mission is to safeguard the security of the Zionist regime, and it is incumbent on all Muslims to strengthen Islamic resistance and continue their anti-Zionist resistance.

Israeli Aircraft Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC1404174590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli enemy aircraft broke the sound barrier more than once over Beirut, the mountain, and the South this morning.

Overfly Eastern Sidon, Camps

NC1304132090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over eastern Sidon and the camps before noon today, drawing anitiaircraft fire.

Israelis Fire on Boat; One Palestinian Killed

NC1304130790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1249 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk: We have just been informed that Abu al-'Abbas, Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, was killed last night in a rubber dinghy in Lebanese territorial waters. According to a Palestinian source, a one-hour clash took place at midnight between an Israeli naval patrol and Palestinians near the al-Rashidiyah camp. At 0230 today, an Israeli gunboat discovered a rubber dingy off al-Rashadiyah carrying three persons and opened fire on it. It was learned that Tal'at Ya'qub was among the three Palestinians. The Palestinian source said that the rubber dingy was retrieved from the sea but he did not say whether the bodies were retrieved. [Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1400 GMT on 13 Apr corrects its 1230 GMT newscast: The person aboard the Palestinian boat who was killed was Captain Abu-al-'Abbas. He was a member of the Palestine Liberation Front, which was led by Tal'at Ya'qub, alias Abu-al-'Abbas, until his death about two years ago.]

Sniper Fire Reported in Eastern Areas

NC1304160490 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Intermittent sniper fire is taking place on the newly formed combat lines in the eastern areas. Violent clashes broke out in these areas at dawn today and continued intermittently until noon.

According to political sources, efforts are under way through the mediation committee to consolidate a truce over the Easter holiday. These sources noted that it will be difficult to do this because of the military tension resulting from the continued massing of troops and reinforcements.

Further on Gunfire in E. Beirut

NC1404104890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces positions in the museum area and the vicinity of Hotel Dieu came under sniper and mortar fire this morning. Some quarters in al-Suyufi are being subjected to intermittent gunfire and 51-mm mortar fire. 'Awn's gunmen are sniping at the forces positions in Salome and its surroundings.

The Olivettia area and vicinity of Hotel Dieu are now coming under machine gun fire. B-7 rounds fired by 'Awn gunmen's emplacements have fallen in the Buick and al-'Adliyah areas. The intensity of the shelling eased at 1130.

Clashes, Preparations for 'Major Battle' Reported

NC1404175490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes took place in East Beirut today and last night. The two warring parties exchanged artillery and sniper fire. This led to the closure of some crossings between the areas under the control of the two parties.

Security sources said that the two parties are making military preparations for what would appear to be a major battle.

Heavy clashes involving various weapons took place at 0500 today on the combat lines of al-'Adliyah, al-'Abd Square, Hotel Dieu, the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah, al-Tibbiyah, al-Barjawi, Salome, al-Nab'ah, and Sinn al-Fill. Shells fell in residential neighborhoods behind the newly created frontlines.

'Awn's radio reported that the shelling wounded a youth and three 'Awn army soldiers in Sinn al-Fil and Primo. Lebanese Forces media accused the 'Awn group of seeking to obstruct anything that could resolve the pending problems in East Beirut and in Lebanon and of preventing the legitimate government from fulfilling its natural role in administering the affairs of the country and the people.

The clashes resumed at 1130 today following a period of guarded calm. Explosions and machine gun fire were heard clearly in West Beirut. Shells fell in a number of neighborhoods on both sides of the line extending from the museum to al-Dawrah.

Further on E. Beirut Clashes

NC1504203290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Intermittent bursts of machine gun and rocket fire are being directed at various combat lines in the eastern area. According to the most recent security report, the Darayya and al-Qulay'at combat lines are coming under bombardment. Meanwhile, the Ja'ja' and 'Awn groups are exchanging machine gun fire along the combat lines of Sinn al-Fil, Salome, and al-Shaluhi. The two warring sides are massing troops and reinforcing their positions, according to security reports.

In another development, Michel 'Awn has said that any comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis should involve Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. In statements to the foreign press, 'Awn claims that the Syrian forces in Lebanon represent one of the factors in the Lebanese problem. Others are represented in the presence of the Palestinians and Iranians in Lebanon, he added. However, 'Awn made no mention of the Israeli occupation of the South. He reiterated his call for holding parliamentary elections under UN auspices.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Resume in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC1304153890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Clashes involving machine guns and rockets resumed between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah shortly before noon today. Artillery shells went beyond the combat lines to fall in a number of villages in the area.

This morning a military source in the Amal Movement accused Hizballah of shelling residential areas in the 'Anqun, Jirnaya, Kafr Shillal, Kafr Hatta, Sarba, and Jarju' villages throughout last night and this morning, injuring two citizens and damaging many houses.

Amal Military Official Killed in West Beirut

NC1604083690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Tension prevails in Ziqaq al-Bilat [in West Beirut], where gunfire was heard at 0830 today.

Amal Movement sources said that gunmen riding in a car opened fire at 'Ali Abu-al-Hasan, the Amal military official in the area, gravely wounding him. Abu-al-Hasan was taken to the American University Hospital where he later died.

Jordanian, Syrian Foreign Ministers Begin Talks

JN1404195690 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Official talks between the two sides—the Syrian Arab chaired by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Jordanian, chaired by Marwan al-Qasim, fraternal Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister—began this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry.

The following attended for Syria: Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Majid Abu-Salih, Syrian ambassador in Amman; Dr. 'Isa Darwish, head of the Arab Homeland Department; Dr. Najdi al-Jazzar, head of the International Organizations' Department; and Walid al-Mu'allim, head of the Special Bureaus.

The following attended for Jordan: Mr. Nayif al-Hadid, Jordanian ambassador in Damascus; Khalid 'Ubaydat, head of the Arab Homeland Department; Khalil 'Uthman, head of the Organizations' Department; Musa Burayzat, head of the Special Bureau.

The talks centered on bilateral relations and developments in the region, primarily the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Talks also centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict and convening the international conference to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Talks Conclude

JN1504122690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian Arab side, led by Foreign Minister Faruk al-Shar', and the Jordanian side, led by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, were concluded at the Foreign Ministry today in Damascus. The two sides had resumed discussions begun yesterday.

Al-Qasim Comments, Departs

JN1504191590 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus this afternoon, concluding a two-day visit to Syria. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Foreign Ministry officials were on hand to bid him farewell.

In a predeparture statement, al-Qasim said he is carrying a letter from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in reply to one from his Majesty King Husayn. His talks with Mr. al-Shar', said al-Qasim, covered issues of mutual interest. There will be further contacts and consultations to consolidate a more comprehensive Arab stand against challenges to the Arab nation. His visit to Syria, he added, is part of continuing consultations with sister Arab states, especially Syria. Al-Qasim hoped there would be more frequent bilateral meetings in the near future.

Meanwhile, al-Shar' described al-Qasim's Damascus meetings as positive and brotherly, and said they underscored the close relations between the brother Syrian and Jordanian peoples. Continued contacts between the brotherly countries' officials, added al-Shar', should help reinforce bilateral ties and unite our perceptions and positions against the dangers threatening the entire Arab nation. Al-Shar' stressed the usefulness of such meetings and said there should more of them.

President Meets With YAR's 'Abd-al-Ghani

JN1404195090 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 2000 today Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Ghani conveyed a message from YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Talks centered on the situation and developments in the region and bilateral issues.

Paper Links Jerusalem Incidents to Resolution

JN1504085090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Jerusalem Crime and the Required Arab Response," AL-THAWRAH comments on the flagrant Israeli encroachment upon Christian priests and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. The paper declares this encroachment heralds the beginning of a process of comprehensive Judaization of Arab Jerusalem. The paper adds: This attack is the beginning of a new Zionist colonization of Palestine and the remaining occupied Arab territories.

In its commentary, AL-THAWRAH asserts that what took place in Jerusalem on Good Friday is a blatant declaration of intent that shows the Zionist plans to swallow Arab Jerusalem and further Judaize occupied Palestinian territories and neighboring Arab lands. The paper refers to the U.S. Senate resolution on Jerusalem and says this resolution is unprecedented in history. It adds the resolution gave the Zionists the green light to forge ahead in the implementation of their expansionist and hostile schemes against the Arabs and the holy sites.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH states what has taken place in occupied Jerusalem bodes ill and tells of unmistakable danger. The paper adds: We in Syria have repeatedly called for facing this danger through the display of the maximum possible solidarity,

cohesion, and joining of Arab ranks, and also through the mobilization of the capabilities and potential of the Arab nation to foil the Zionist expansionist scheme, which seeks to make gains at the expense of the Arab individual and homeland, and to restore real and just peace through the securing of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and liberation of all occupied Arab lands.

U.S. Peace Diplomacy 'Far From Serious'

JN1504225890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: When we compare the views expressed by U.S. Senator Robert Dole during his visit to occupied Palestine and the reactions of Zionist leaders, we can see the extent of the gap that can emerge between U.S. and Israeli policies when the U.S. Administration thinks seriously about peace in the region. Such peace depends on the reduction of assistance to Israel, the discontinuation of Jewish settlement in occupied territories, and the cancellation of the Congress' decision considering Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. Peace also requires pressure on Israel to stop its criminal practices against the Arabs in the occupied territories, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and abidance by UN resolutions on peace in the region. Peace in the region also requires the United States free itself from its alliance with Israel so it can play an even-handed role in the peace process, proceeding from motives of right and justice, not from bias in favor of the aggressor.

Thus, a serious approach to the idea of peace presupposes a series of radical changes in U.S. policy. Since these changes have not taken place, the only explanation is that Washington is not taking the issue of peace in the region seriously. The peace process, as far as Washington is concerned, is still a pattern of diplomacy that is far from serious. When Washington really believes in the need for peace, it must prove it by adopting practical positions that curb the Zionist policy of aggression and expansion and force Israel into accepting the will of the international community.

Public Urged To Vote, Elect Worthy Candidates

JN1504135590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Gentlemen: Candidates have been entering their names for elections to the People's Assembly. The relatively high number of nominees is a measure of a growing public realization of the importance of this legislative body that represents the will of the people. The electorate will choose 250 members against 195 in the outgoing body, thus allocating 40 percent of the seats to independents, up 22 percent on their previous strength.

Without a doubt, the increase both in the number of the assembly's seats and in independent representation, aims to give broader participation in decisionmaking and charting the country's economic and developmental strategies. The relatively large number of candidates reflects a popular desire to contribute to decisionmaking and to see the broadest possible segment of the populace join the major battles of the homeland and take part in the construction process.

The candidates will have access to all forms of Syrian media to freely engage in electioneering and promoting their platforms. The vote will be absolutely fair and free to make sure the right people make it to the legislature. We urge the public across the political and ideological spectrum not only to exercise its voting rights, but also to choose candidates likely to express its aspirations and prove worthy of its trust.

In the four previous terms, this important legislative body has shown itself to be effective in various fields. In its fifth term, however, the assembly will be expected to fulfill greater tasks and shoulder heavier responsibilities. To quote His Excellency President Haifiz al-Asad, the citizens want a dynamic and effective house, since none of us is interested in ceremonial bodies addressing irrelevant issues. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Minister Says UN Not Monitoring Geneva Accords

BK1504005590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1747 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 14 (AFP)—The government here Saturday [14 April] accused the United Nations of neglecting to monitor alleged violations of the U.N.-brokered Geneva peace pacts on Afghanistan by Pakistan, which is a signatory to them. Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Daud Kawyan [name as received] also strongly disapproved of the decision to wind up the U.N. Good Offices on Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOAP), which was established here to monitor the 1988 Geneva pact implementation. Mr. Kawyan urged for the restoration of the Good Offices group to its original status.

He made the remarks at a press conference here on the second anniversary of the signing of the accords between Islamabad and Kabul, which provided for the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and return of Afghan refugees who fled to neighbouring countries. Cessation of hostilities betweeen Pakistan and Afghanistan and non-intervention in each other's affairs were two other important clauses of the agreements.

He said the mandate of the Good Offices group ended January last but was extended for another three months. But later the group's status was scaled down to be a panel with a strength of only five observers, called the U.N. Secretary General's Office on Afghanistan and Pakistan (USGAP).

Mr. Kawyan said there was no alternative to the Geneva pacts to restore peace in Afghanistan, where the mujahidin rebels are continuing a bloody campaign against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah, though Moscow completed the troop pullout in February 1989. He pointed out that the Geneva pact was guaranteed by both Moscow and Washington and acknowledged by several international forums.

Kabul, since the signing of the accord on April 14, sent a total of 9,211 notes through 1,270 diplomatic messages to the U.N. Good Offices here, he said, protesting breaches of the agreements by Pakistan. But the Good Offices group took notice of only a "very few" of them, the minister said.

Mr. Kawyan said Kabul had fulfilled its commitment of sending the Soviet troops home, but that Pakistan was still enhancing its alleged military activities on Afghanistan. "The course of events indicate that Pakistan has ignored the several clauses of the pact and violated its international commitments," he said. In the last two years after the signing of Geneva pacts, Pakistan had ordered military adventures in the three Afghan frontier towns of Khowst, Jalalabad and Qandahar, he said.

Mr. Kawyan further accused Islamabad of organising military camps for the anti-government mujahidin resistance and engineering plots like last month's failed army coup to overthrow Mr. Najibullah's regime. "The position of Afghanistan is that it regards the agreements as the only basis of a political settlement ... but Pakistan has ignored the United Nations and its offices," he said.

Mr. Kawyan recalled an appeal made by Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil recently to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the need for keeping the Good Offices group with its original status. Mr. Wakil said that the scaling down of the the group "is endangering the pacts" and that the group's restoration to the original status was imperative for the implementation of the accords.

USGAP sources here recently said they did not have a fresh mandate and that they were not accepting any more protest notes from the Afghan Government. But last week they began receiving letters alleging Pakistani violations of the agreement.

"Why we stress for the (original) UNGOAP is clear," the minister said, referring to the reluctance of an estimated five million refugees who fled to Iran and Pakistan to return home and continuing skirmishes between Kabul troops and the mujahidin. "In the three-month period beginning January the rebels have fired 229 rockets into Kabul city, killing 73 civilians and maiming 411 more," he said. "This indicates the gross and savage aggression by Pakistan on Afghanistan."

Defense Minister Speaks to News Conference

LD1304211290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1610 GMT 13 Apr 90

[News conference by Defense Minister General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar with foreign journalists in the Storey Palace of the Foreign Ministry in Kabul, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Watanjar] It is now over a year since the Republic of Afghanistan achieved many gains in the national and international arenas.

Despite all the foreign interference and intervention, the Armed Forces have inflicted crushing blows, with bravery and courage, on the enemies of peace and homeland in Jalalabad, Khowst and Qandahar and other regions of the country. Supported by the Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis and international reaction, the extremists faced shameful and crushing defeats on many battlefields.

In order to remedy all these defeats the coup plan of 6 March through Shahnawaz, who was the enemy of the homeland and peace, was organized by the assistance of the Pakistani intelligence service and extremists Gulbuddin group. As the only desire of the people of Afghanistan was the restoration of peace, the leadership

of the Republic of Afghanistan, led by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, time and again said in his talks and speeches that his only desire is to secure a peaceful life for the people of Afghanistan and to salvage the persecuted people from the destruction of war. The Armed Forces by their timely action in defeating the treacherous coup showed to the world that the enemies of freedom, independence, territorial integrity, and peace, wherever they are, will be faced with shameful defeat, just as the Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz band faced shameful historic defeat. The enemies' shameful defeat further united and strengthened the brave Armed Forces and made them more ready for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. Because those treacherous elements were against this humane policy and removed obstacles on this path and got rid of them.

[Moderator] First question by the AFP correspondent: As the new minister of defense, in which way is your work superior?

[Watanjar] Under the historical and destiny-making conditions of the country, the independent defense by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan against foreign aggression has put great and important tasks on the shoulders of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Afghanistan. We, along with all components of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, are carrying out all our planned tasks for the independent defense of our country in consideration of all our missions and duties.

[Moderator] Second question: What is your plan in connection with the reconstruction of the army and toward the consolidation of its ranks?

[Watanjar] The ranks of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan have become more united than ever before. We are advancing the plans of education and training of the ranks of the Armed Forces and are enhancing the unity, discipline, and combat readiness of the armed forces.

[Moderator] Third question: What is the morale of your Armed Forces and that of the Air Force after the aborted coup attempt?

[Watanjar] The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Air Force have high morale and high combat defense spirit against the enemies of the policy of national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan. The crushing of the Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup in less than 24 hours, in itself, is the manifestation of this fact. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are at such a level of combat readiness and combat preparedness that they can best defend the country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity against every enemy plan and foul designs.

[Moderator] What measures do you have under consideration in order to prevent the repetition of incidents such as that of the last month's failed coup?

[Watanjar] The planning and its ludicrous defeat by the Armed Forces and the escape of Shahnawaz and his collaborators to Pakistan have given rise to purges in the Armed Forces and have prevented the repetition of such measures.

[Moderator] Fifth question: It has been thought that, after the escape of Shahnawaz Tanay and the purges of some members of the party politburo, differences have come among the Khalqis. What do you say in this regard?

[Watanjar] Siding with the Pakistani military authorities and the Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz coup, which was carried out by a number of extremists, self-seeking and ambitious persons and those against the policy of national reconciliation, was a treacherous action. The escape of Shahnawaz to Pakistan is indicative of his links with Pakistani military intelligence. In line with the decisions of the March plenum, the expulsion of a limited number of people from the party in a unanimous decision by the PDPA Central Committee in no way brings about the question of factional matters concerning the failed coup of Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz. This terminology is that of outsiders.

[Moderator] Sixth question: Do you think that the coup efforts would encourage the opposition to mount a large spring attack? If so, what will be your responsive plans?

[Watanjar] The Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz failed coup, which began at 1300 on 6 March, was resolutely defeated by 1300 on 7 March. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan controls all the areas which it controlled prior to the defeated coup. Similarly in the course of one year and two months the independent defense by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have taken away the courage of another spring attack. In case of an attack, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, in unity and vigilance, are ready to foil every sort of attempt by the extremists linked to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and their other backers.

[Moderator] Seventh question: Please tell us about the present militaray situation in Afghanistan.

[Watanjar] After the failed coup of Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz, the military situation has speedily returned to its previous status. Throughout the country the units and companies of the Republic of Afghanistan are engaged in strengthening their trenches, defending the country against aggressors. All important and strategic transport highways are under the control of the state. Despite the slanderous propaganda of the enemies of national reconciliation in the country, the warmongering extremists have not gained any sort of success.

[Moderator] First question by BBC reporter: Mr. Minister, has the reorganization of the Armed Forces now been completed after the coup attempt? Could you tell us specifically how broad it is?

[Watanjar] The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, prior to and after the failed coup attempt, were and are capable of strong and orderly organization. For the purpose of the defense of the free and independent Afghanistan, we have strong and competent Armed Forces who have proved their capability since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces under the Geneva Accords.

[Moderator] Second question: Do you envisage any threat as a result of spring offensive or attack?

[Watanjar] The opposition and their backers for many years have made plans for their failed aggression and in order to conceal their failures, they put forward a variety of pretexts. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are fully prepared for every sort of attack by them, be it in the spring, fall, or winter. They will be given a satisfactory reply, as in the past.

[Moderator] Questions by AFP television team: First question—One month has passed since the failed coup. What is the position of the Army now?

[Watanjar] As I stated in reply to the BBC reporter, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are a modern army and have patriotic and heroic personnel. They can highly defend the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty

[Moderator] Second question: How do you assess the military situation in the country?

[Watanjar] In our country the military situation is advantageous for the forces of peace, that is, it is advantageous for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. Warmongers have faced shameful defeats on the battle-fields and they have lost their credibility and reputation on the national and international arenas.

[Moderator] Third question: Do you think that an incident such as that in Herat would cause a continuation of the war?

[Watanjar] In no way. An incident similar to that in Herat, which was brought about by a number of terrorists, cannot cause the continuation of war. On the contrary further experience could be gained concerning the policy of national reconciliation. We believe in the policy of national reconciliation, which is the demand of all the people of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Question by CTK reporter: What areas of Afghanistan are controlled by Afghan opposition groups? Has any change occurred in this regard since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces?

[Watanjar] The opposition is active in those parts of Afghanistan which were and are of no strategic importance to the state. All strategic big cities and districts and strategic roads are under the control of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. In this regard, since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, no negative change has come about. Of course, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, in order to further implement the policy of national reconciliation and to encourage the refugees to return to their fatherland, has evacuated some areas.

[Moderator] Question by BBC reporters Gawhar Khan and Behroz: In your opinion, has not the failed coup inflicted material and moral damage on the state, in particular on the military?

[Watanjar] The disgraceful and shameless actions of a number of persons who sold out to Pakistani intelligence have caused a large amount of material losses and the death of a large number of our compatriots. Morally, however, the greatest damage has been sustained by the coup-makers and its failed organizers. Because their disgrace was revealed and their credibiity lost forever among the Afghan people. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan was purged by such factions.

[Moderator] Many people believe that General Tanay still has supporters in the Armed Forces and it is possible they could disturb the state. What is your policy in this regard? A complete purge or friendship?

[Watanjar] They have been expelled forever from the ranks of patriots and from the ranks of the peace-loving officers and troops of Afghanistan. Joining hands with two extremists, that is Gulbuddin and Shahnawaz and their links with the Pakistani military intelligence, have separated them from the Afghanistan people forever.

[Moderator] Don't you think that rivalry between the two wings of Khalq and Parcham is not curable?

[Watanjar] The Khalq and Parcham terminology in the ranks and leadership cadres of the PDPA is outdated. And as I said before, this terminology is the terminology of outsiders. Instead of rivalry, unprecedented unity has been created in the PDPA. Linking the failed coup of Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz with interparty affairs is not logical.

[Moderator] Question by a Cuban journalist: Will it be possible for foreign journalists to tour Jalalabad city?

[Watanjar] We will with pleasure make for you a program to see Jalalabad city, for which now is a very good time.

[Moderator] Question by AFP journalist: What specific measures have you taken about those ground and air units who took part in the coup attempt?

[Watanjar] No ground and air units took part in the coup; they were individuals who took part. As you know already through our state authorities in their interviews and have read in the papers, 623 people are under investigation in connection with this incident. Thank you.

Khalis Condemns Gulbuddin-Tanai Alliance

LD1304090890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—Yunis Khalis one of the heads of the Seven Alliance based in Peshawar has stated that, the alliance shaped between Gulbuddin-Shahnawaz shown to the world people that, Gulbuddin is willing to take power. Otherwise, it is impossible that two extremists come together.

Yunis Khalis strongly condemned Gulbuddin's support from Shahnawaz, who following his abortive coup escaped to Pakistan. He emphasized that coming Shahnawaz to the Gulbuddin side intensified differences among opposition.

He added, if Gulbuddin doesn't revise his stand and doesn't avoid his collaboration with Shahnawaz, it will bring about negative effect on Peshawar Seven Alliance. Khalis stressed that Gulbuddin instead of blaming Peshawar based Six Alliance, should admit his mistakes.

Heavy Gulbuddin-Hekmatyar Fighting Reported

LD1404181890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Hostilities and vindictive attacks against each other by the Gulbuddin and Hekmatyar groups have increased since the killing of Mullah Nasim. Groups of Muhammadi and Hekmatyar groups associated with Nabi Muhammadi attacked a Gulbuddin group in the area of Nad-e Ali in Helmand Province on 12 April. Both sides used heavy weapons and ground-to-ground rockets during the fighting. Fifty belligerents were killed or wounded and three Gulbuddin arms and ammunition dumps were destroyed.

Fighting was so intense that residents of two nearby villages had to leave their homes; many rockets and artillery shells have landed in the villages, inflicting heavy material damage.

Many Gulbuddin arms and ammunition dumps were captured by the other side during the fighting, which continues.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Pakistani 'Provocations'

LD1504183390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, remarking on the tense situation caused by the interference and provocations of Pakistan in the internal affairs of India between the two countries, said:

While the inclination for international peace and security and for the reduction of regional problems and disputes increases and the world moves from confrontation to understanding and dialogue, and while the Pakistan-backed Afghan opposition suffers shameful defeats at the hands of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan in political and military fields, Pakistan wants to keep active its adventurist role as the regional gendarme, disrupting the political atmosphere of the region. Pursuing such a policy in the region, Pakistan clearly finances and arms separatist forces in Jammu and Kashmir Provinces of India, and organizes extensive subversion. It also provides the opportunity for military training in Pakistan for anti-Indian individuals and groups in the Jammu and Kashmir Province, and sends them after being trained and armed to India for subversive activities. This act of Pakistan, which shall be considered as being all the norms and legal principles in relations between governments, is a clear interference in the internal affairs of its neighbors and the cause of the instability of the situation in the region. Now it can clearly be seen that Pakistan conducts the same stance and policy of interference and aggression that it has been pursuing over the past 12 years against the Republic of Afghanistan, against other countries of the region, and against the Republic of India which pursues a peaceful policy in the region. The continuation of that sort of provocation in the vicinity of our northeastern borders is the cause of great concern for the Republic of Afghanistan. Therefore, Afghanistan cannot ignore those dangerous provocations. The Government of Pakistan, by those acts keeping hostility in the region alive, wants to cosmetically divert world public opinion from its domestic incidents and problems, and by taking advantage of those situations control Pakistan's internal chaos and protests. The Republic of Afghanistan demands that Pakistan end its adventurist provocations and not further aggravate the situation of the region. The continuation of such a policy is not in the interests of peace and stability in the region and in Pakistan.

India

Singh Comments on Regional Situation, Pakistan

Addresses Punjab All-Party Rally

BK1304125590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has cautioned the people against the continuing efforts of Pakistan to foment communal passions in different parts of the country. He was addressing an all-party rally held in Amritsar this afternoon to pay homage to the martyrs of Jalianawala Bagh. He appealed to the people, particularly ex-soldiers, youth, and the farmers, to defend the unity and integrity of the country like a rock. The prime minister stressed the need for carrying out heart searching at all levels to find out the faults that have developed in our system over the past few years. He said that the National Front government has taken a number of steps to redress the long-outstanding genuine grievances of the people of Punjab.

The prime minister said that the main challenge today is the restoration of peace and normalcy in Punjab and his government is determined to achieve it. He said that the government is against continuing president's rule in Punjab and wants the assembly elections to be held within the next six months. But he pointed out that a democratic, just, and peaceful atmosphere should first be created since bullet and ballot cannot go together.

Earlier, the prime minister joined the nation in paying homage to the martyrs who were massacred at the Jalianawala Bagh at Amritsar on this day in 1919. Wreaths were laid on the martyrs memorial, Flame of Liberty, this afternoon by the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; the union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed; the Punjab governor, Mr. N.K. Mukherjee, and several other prominent leaders.

Sees 'Clouds of War' Over Borders

BK1304160090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said Friday [13 April] war clouds were gathering over the frontier with Pakistan and pledged to fight to protect Indian unity, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. Mr. V.P. Singh told a public rally in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, "The clouds of war are once again hovering over the borders with Pakistan," PTI said. He assured people that "any threat to the country's integrity and unity would be faced determinedly," the news agency said.

The speech came three days after Mr. V.P. Singh urged the nation to be psychologically prepared for war after accusing Pakistan of promoting insurgency in Kashmir, where Moslem militants are battling for secession.

Indian reports say Pakistan has evacuated civilians from border villages and moved some troops and radar formations to forward positions along the border in Kashmir, the subject of a dispute between the two countries. New Delhi has sounded a red alert and intensified border patrols.

Mr. V.P. Singh's speech Friday came during a visit to commemorate the hundreds of victims of a 1919 massacre at Amritsar's Jallianwallah Bagh, who were mown down by troops as they attended an anti-British rally. [passage omitted]

Says Pakistan Should Stop Kashmir Aid

BK1304160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has ruled out talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue as long as it continues its support to insurgent operations in India. He was talking to newsmen aboard the special aircraft on his way back from Amritsar today. He said: What kind of dialogue can be held with Pakistan when it is using insurgency against us and freely supplying finances to subversives. Mr. Singh asserted that Kashmir shall remain with India, both the land and the people. He said if Pakistan is keen on a dialogue, it should stop abetting secessionist activities and put an end to the border crossing by large numbers of people.

The prime minister regretted the killings of the vice chancellor of Kashmir university, his aide, and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory general manager by their abductors and said that the decision not to set free any terrorist to secure their release was taken by the state administration.

The prime minister also said that Pakistan has recently moved its radars close to the border and made its air fields operational. [passage omitted]

Claims Pakistan on 'Red Alert'

BK1404074890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that the Pakistani authorities have issued a red alert and activated their airfields. Talking to newsmen informally after the investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] today, he said they have also moved forward their forces, including radars. The prime minister asserted that India is prepared to meet any eventuality. He, however, refused to outline India's plans.

Mr. V.P. Singh described the bomb blast in a private crowded bus in Delhi as a sad incident. He said the intelligence agencies have been asked to identify the forces behind this incident. He said there is a similar pattern to create disturbances in a planned way.

Kashmir Governor on Drive Against Militants

BK1304161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said that the present drive against the subversives and the curfew conditions in the worst affected localities of Srinagar will continue in view of the excellent results obtained so far. Announcing this after reviewing the present law and order situation in the Kashmir valley today, Mr. Jag Mohan said the subversives had been bottled up in certain localities and the administration would not like to loose this advantage. He also announced that the investigations into the kidnapping and killing of the vice chancellor of the Kashmir University, his personal secretary, and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tool] factory general manager had been handed over to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. Nine case of terrorist killings referred to the CBI so far had been solved with the arrest of subversives during the house-to-house search in the last few days.

Meanwhile, the security forces have nabbed 32 more subversives in Srinagar and Badgam during the last 24

hours. Indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar and some other towns in the Kashmir valley.

The railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, who is also the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, today visited Kargil and Zanskar in Jammu and Kashmir and met various sections of the people. They apprised the minister of the problems of the area. They also expressed their commitment to the unity and integrity of the country.

Britain's Hurd Comments on Kashmir, Punjab

BK1304164690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Britain says that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral problem between India and Pakistan and it should be solved peacefully in accordance with the Simla agreement. In an exclusive interview to our correspondent, Kameshwar Rao, in London last week, the British foreign secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, expressed the hope that the Governments of India and Pakistan will not push the issue to the length of conflict.

Reiterating that the problem should be solved peacefully by discussion, Mr. Hurd offered British help if necessary to find a solution to this problem.

Answering a question on Punjab, Mr. Hurd said his government is very keen to discourage the flow of funds from Britain to the terrorists in Punjab. Several measures have been taken to check violent acts in Britain by the people who are supporting and abetting terrorism in Punjab.

On bilateral relations, the British foreign secretary said all possible steps will be taken to to make Britain the number one trade partner with India. Mr. Hurd said the establishment of the single European market system by 1992 will not affect India-British economic relations.

Endorsing India's point of view on international action to check terrorism in the world, Mr. Hurd said there will be full cooperation from his government in this regard. He also called for international action on drug trafficking.

Strongly defending his government's unilateral action on lifting sanctions against the Pretoria regime, the British foreign secretary said it is necessary to give some concessions to Mr. De Klerk to help dismantle apartheid from South Africa.

Home Minister Denies Creating 'War Psychosis'

BK1504073390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister has refuted the charge that the center is creating a war psychosis to cover the alleged mishandling of the situation in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Reacting to the comments of Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in a section of the press, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said in Ahmedabad yesterday [14 April] that on the contrary the earlier government had allowed the situation to deteriorate in both the states, while the National Government has been dealing firmly with the militants there.

The home minister also said that [Akali Dal-Mann leader] Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann has been frequently shifting his stand and as a result has lost his credibility among the people. He deplored the Akali leader's statement that he will approach the United Nations for a plebiscite in Punjab. Mr. Sayeed reminded Mr. Mann of his earlier statements that he wanted a solution of the Punjab problem within the framework of the Indian Constitution. The home minister assured that the government is trying to create a congenial atmosphere to hold assembly elections in the state within six months.

BJP Leader Urges Warning Pakistan on Kashmir

BK1504132090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has urged the center to sternly warn Pakistan against interference in Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow today, Mr. Joshi said if Pakistan does not stop its support to subversives, India will have no option except to destroy the training camps run by the Pakistan Government in the Pak-occupied Kashmir. Mr. Joshi urged the government to weed out all administrative officers who were involved in subversive activities in the valley to ensure efficient and fair administration in the state.

The BJP leader deplored the Akali leader Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann's statement that he would approach the United Nations for a plebiscite in Punjab.

CPI Leader Criticizes Call for Plebiscite

BK1504132690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, a senior leader of the Communist Party of India [CPI] has criticized the Akali Dal-Mann leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, for calling for a United Nations-supervised plebiscite in the state. The secretary of the Punjab unit of the CPI, Mr. Peyara Singh Deosi, said Mr. Mann's statements have betrayed the patriotic traditions and aspirations of all Punjabis, including the Sikhs whose interest he claims to espouse.

Kashmiri Militants Explode Bombs; 100 Arrested

BK1304143890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 13 (AFP)—Muslim militants set off three bombs in curfew-bound Kashmir Friday [13 April], damaging the houses of two pro-India politicians and destroying a jeep, as security forces arrested about 100 suspected activists. The blasts shook the Kashmir valley as police found the bodies of four men believed to

have been shot by militants, who also kidnapped a 75-year-old former legislator, officials said in the state's winter capital here. One body was identified as that of a Hindu resident of the south Kashmir town of Shupiyan.

Amirullah Khan, a former Kashmir lawmaker from the Congress (I) Party of former premier Rajiv Gandhi, was reportedly kidnapped from the same area Friday, the officials said. No one claimed responsibility for the kidnap.

Bombs exploded at the houses of two politicians belonging to the regional National Conference and the Congress (I) in the summer capital Srinagar, causing some damage. A third blast destroyed a jeep owned by the state animal husbandry department. No casualties were reported in the blasts, which came as security forces arrested some 100 suspects, raising the number held in an anti-militant drive to 500.

Security forces arrested an unspecified number of people after a raid on the offices of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami Party in Srinagar Friday. They were pursuing a massive search operation launched Wednesday [11 April] for the killers of three hostages slain by their kidnappers after the government refused to release three prisoners in exchange for their lives.

Leading Moslem politician Maulana Abbas Ansari was among those held Friday.

More than 10,000 houses had been searched up to Thursday [12 April] during the operation which involved thousands of army and paramilitary troops backed by local police under a round-the-clock curfew.

Militants repeatedly broadcast appeals from mosques in the valley urging Moslems to defy the curfew and go out to pray on the second Friday of Ramadan, the holy Moslem month of abstinence, officials said here. Troops immediately tightened security as the administration issued fresh instructions to shoot curfew-violators on sight and withdrew curfew passes from many state government employees of "doubtful character," the officials said. No "untoward incident" related to the militant appeals was reported, they said.

Religious congregations have in recent weeks been followed by violent anti-India demonstrations in Kashmir, where Moslem militants are spearheading a bloody separatist campaign which has left almost 400 people dead so far this year.

As the security drive continued, Kashmir's leading Moslem religious figure sent appeals to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the London-based human rights group Amnesty International protesting alleged repression. Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq said the people of Kashmir had been made hostage by the round-the-clock curfew and asked the United Nations and Amnesty to pressure India to "restore and safeguard human, religious and political rights" of the Kashmiris.

Bomb Blast on Delhi Bus Kills 2, Injures 25

BK1304155990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—Two people were killed and 25 injured when a bomb exploded on a bus in the Indian capital Friday [13 April], police said. Many of the injured were in a serious condition, they said.

The blast on the public bus occurred outside Wazirpur industrial area in the northern walled city of old Delhi, the police said. No one claimed responsibility immediately for the bombing, which was the second in Delhi this week.

A dozen police were injured in two explosions that rocked a police station in West Delhi's Rajouri Garden area Tuesday [10 April].

5 Killed, 40 Injured in Delhi Bus Explosion

BK1404012090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] At least five people were killed and more than 40 injured in a powerful explosion in a crowded private bus in northwest Delhi last evening [13 April]. The blast, which ripped the bus apart, occurred on the Prembari Bridge between Ashok Vihar and Wazirpur industrial area. The injured have been rushed to the Hindu Rao and the ESI [Employees State Insurance] hospitals. While four persons were brought dead to these hospitals, one succumbed to his injuries in the ESI hospital late last night. The condition of some of the injured is stated to be serious.

Agency reports, quoting police, said a powerful explosive device was apparently planted inside the private bus under DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] operation. The blast set the bus ablaze and badly damaged a Maruti Gypsy [van].

Srinagar Curfew Relaxed; 123 'Subversives' Arrested

BK1404031890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] In Srinagar, curfew is being relaxed in 13 localities for two hours from 1000 this morning. No vehicle will, however, be allowed to ply during the relaxation period.

Curfew was clamped in Bhadarwah Town of Doda District yesterday following some incidents of violence. Five persons, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured in the incidents. The situation is under control and no untoward incident has been reported after the imposition of curfew.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has made it clear that the current drive by the security forces to nab the subversives by house-to-house search during the curfew period would continue in view of the excellent results achieved so far. One hundred twenty-three subversives, including about a dozen hard-core terrorists, have been

arrested during the last one week. Their interrogation has given valuable clues about the terrorist network in the Kashmir Valley. The administration is of the firm view that many subversives are trapped in curfew-bound localities in Srinagar City, and the security forces have been ordered to flush them out.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to enhance the relief being granted to the Kashmiri migrants living in various towns in Jammu region. The new rate of relief will be 10 rupees per head daily, subject to a maximum of 1,000 rupees per family in a month.

Situation in Kashmir Updated 14 April

BK1404160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] In Srinagar, the two-hour curfew relaxation today passed off peacefully except for an incident in Zaldagah area where some subversives hurled a hand grenade on a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] party. No one was injured. It has been officially stated that the news report about kidnapping of a former Congress-I legislator in Shupian is false. The former legislator, Mr. Amirullah, had only gone to his in-law's village and joined his family back in Shupian today. The security forces are continuing their drive against the subversives in Srinagar and other cities of the Kashmir Valley and more arrests have been made.

The vice president of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mrs. Vije Raje Scindia, visited the Kashmiri migrant camps in and around Jammu today. Another delegation comprising four Shiv Sena MP's [members of Parliament] also visited the migrants camp.

The Insaf Party president, Syed Shahabuddin, has urged the government to take immediate steps to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir and seal the international border. He was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi.

The president of the Shiromani Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, has demanded firm action against Pakistan if it continues to support and arm terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

In Jammu, senior National Conference leader Mr. Haji Buland Khan has urged the government to take immediate steps to ensure the supply of essential commodities to the people living in the hilly areas of Gul Gulabgarh and Thakrakot. In a statement issued today, he said all major roads of the area have been closed for the last one month and should be open to traffic now.

36 More 'Subversives' Arrested in Kashmir Valley

BK1504161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, the continuing drive against the subversives has yielded encouraging results with the arrest of 36 more subversives during the house-to-house searches in four localities of Srinagar city today. Some of their harborers have also been arrested. The area-wide searches were also carried out in another town of the valley.

The state governor, while reviewing the situation today, disclosed that the killers of the Kashmir University vice chancellor, his personal secretary, and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] general manager have been identified during the interrogation of arrested subversives. An intensified search is on to nab them. Curfew continued in Srinagar city and towns of Bhadarwah and Kishtwar.

Meanwhile, the state secretariat and other offices will close in the winter capital at Jammu on the 30th of this month and reopen at the summer capital in Srinagar on 7 May. Government employees who prefer to keep their families in Jammu can retain the government accommodation. The employees will be provided adequate security, free transport, and hostel-type accommodation in Srinagar.

Pakistani Intelligence Reportedly Behind Bombings

BK1504162690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The center has set up a high-level group to monitor the steps being taken to check the terrorist activities in various parts of the country. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that states have also been asked to maintain vigil at places like railway stations, airports, and bus stands where people gather in large numbers every day. They have been told to have proper screening at such places as a precautionary measure. The state governments have been instructed to educate the public about the precautionary measures to be taken while traveling in buses and in parking vehicles in unattended places.

These steps, which might cause some inconvenience to the people, are being taken in view of reports that Pakistani intelligence agencies are behind the recent bomb explosions.

Meanwhile, at a high-level meeting in New Delhi today, the union home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, reviewed the law and order situation in the capital following some incidents of bomb blasts recently. The home minister wanted the officials to closely coordinate with other states for better collection of intelligence and effective implementation.

Kashmir Search Operations, War Fear Reported

BK1604043290 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 16 Apr 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] As the war of words over Kashmir intensified between India and Pakistan, tension is mounting in the province itself, where the Indian Army has been carrying

out house-to-house searches for Muslim separatists. The troops have also been helping to enforce a vigorous curfew. This report is by Mark Tully in Delhi:

[Begin recording] Foreign correspondents are banned from Srinagar. But local journalists say the city has been under virtual siege for 10 days. Supplies of food and medicines are inadequate, and doctors say they can't reach hospitals and so, patients are dying. The official reason for the curfew is that the searches which are being conducted have led to the arrest of separatists through given important information. The searches have become a military operation. The Kashmir police are not involved, apparently because they are not trusted by the administration. The soldiers and the paramilitary police who are conducting the searches have no local knowledge and do not speak Kashmiri. Officials admit that 150 people have been arrested—local journalists say the figure is nearly 1,000; 40 people have been released, and some of them say that they have been tortured.

It's the Kashmir crisis which is fueling the fears of a war between India and Pakistan with the prime ministers of both countries making bellicose statements. However, even in India few people believe that the Pakistani prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, wants a war. The military balance of power is against her country and its defeat wouldn't just endanger her government. It would also endanger the future of the Pakistan Army. In India, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, is having to respond to demands for even stronger measures in Kashmir from the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, whose support is essential for the survival of his government. But a senior leader of that party has said that she doesn't think there will be war. [end recording]

'Breakthrough' Claimed Against Kashmir Subversives

BK1604092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, informed the Lok Sabha today that a breakthrough has been achieved in checking secessionist activities in the Kashmir valley. A number of hard-core terrorists and their sympathizers have been apprehended during searches carried out on their hideouts.

Responding to queries made by members during zero hour, the minister said the state government has been clearly instructed to ensure that innocent citizens are not subjected to any harassment in the course of searches. He said policewomen are also associated in the house-to-house searches. Sharing members concern over the difficulties that people have faced on account of the indefinite curfew in Srinagar, Mr. Sayeed said the state governor has been requested to provide relaxation in curfew as and when possible. He explained that the government is compelled to continue curfew on account of compulsions of the situation as militants would find it easy to escape if there is any relaxation.

The home minister said there cannot be slackness or laxity in dealing with the terrorists. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir want stern action against those responsible for disturbing peace in the valley. He assured the house that the government is very keen to bring the situation back to normal as early as possible.

Three National Conference members expressed concern over the indefinite curfew in Srinagar and staged a walkout expressing dissatisfaction over the minister's reply.

In Srinagar, curfew was relaxed for two hours from 1000 this morning in about a dozen localities. Other curfew-bound towns in the Kashmir valley have four-hour relaxation of varying schedule today. No incident has been reported from anywhere during the relaxation period. Security forces are carrying out house-to-house searches to flush out subversives in curfew-bound localities of Srinagar and some other town in the valley. About 228 subversives, including several hard-core terrorists, have been arrested during the last one week.

The state governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has said that no act of terrorism will go unpunished. He has once again appealed to the misguided youth to abandon the cult of violence.

Minister Says Kashmir 'Crackdown' To Continue

BK1604124490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, April 16 (AFP)—Three people were injured in shootouts in Kashmir Monday as Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed said a massive crackdown on militants fighting Indian rule would continue until "peace and tranquility" returned to Kashmir. The home minister's statement came after Kashmir's fabled house-boatmen took out a floating torchlight procession on the state's rivers and lakes Sunday night [15 April] in a poignant appeal to both sides to end to the violence. The boatmen, who make their living from the tourists who flock to the scenic valley in the Himalayan foothills from Western Europe, the United States and Scandinavia every summer, dispersed when they saw paramilitary troops converging on the banks of the lakes, witnesses said.

Mufti Sayeed made his pledge to continue the crackdown amid a noisy walkout in Parliament in New Delhi following a debate on the possible relaxation of an 11-day round-the-clock curfew on the Kashmir valley. Opposition members, who clashed repeatedly with pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members, had charged that people were starving and unable to get medicines because of the curfew. "They (the government) are treating Kashmir as a colony," the opposition members shouted, as the home minister replied that a relaxation in the curfew had been introduced Monday [16 April] and that it would also be relaxed Tuesday [17 April]. But he said there would be no laxity in the

massive campaign launched April 6 against the militants "until peace and tranquility" were restored to the valley.

Normalcy could not be restored until the "terrorists" were rounded up, the home minister said, referring to armed Muslim extremists leading the anti-India violence, who kidnapped his daughter in Kashmir last December and held her until five of their imprisoned comrades were freed. Last week, militants kidnapped another three people then executed them, leading authorities to slap a curfew on the valley's 25 cities on April 6. Since then, some 500 suspected militants have been rounded up and more than 10,000 houses searched in a massive dragnet lauched by police and paramilitary troops.

The curfew was relaxed for two hours Monday in Srinagar, the center of the unrest, and for four hours in other cities after thousands of doctors in the valley threatened to strike unless the curfew was lifted. Officials in Jammu said a Kashmir armed police constable was among three injured in various shooting incidents between armed militants and paramilitary forces during Monday's curfew break.

In the western city of Bombay, hardline BJP leader L.K. Advani urged the government to keep up the crackdown in Kashmir. Mr. Advani accused Pakistan of waging "an undeclared war" on India and said his party, which supports the minority government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, would organize a mass rally in the capital on the Kashmir issue May 2.

5 Punjab 'Terrorists' Killed in Separate Incidents

BK1504150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, five more terrorists have been killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists gunned down three members of a rival gang in two separate incidents in Ferozepore District last night. Their dead bodies were recovered by the police this morning.

Elsewhere in the state, two terrorists committed suicide by consuming poison in two separate incidents in Patiala and in Kapurthala District when they were chased and overpowered by the security forces.

'Powerful' Punjab Bomb Blast Kills 3, Injures 20

BK1604033490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] In Punjab, three persons, including a woman and a child, were killed and 20 injured in a powerful bomb blast on the outskirts of Ludhiana Town yesterday. The bomb was planted in an abandoned tractor. In all, 17 persons, including 11 terrorists, were killed in separate incidents since Saturday [14 April] in the state. Six terrorists were killed in an encounter in Amritsar District and three others were killed in two incidents of intergang rivalry in Ferozepore District. Two terrorists committed suicide by consuming poison in Kapurthala and Patiala districts. Elsewhere, terrorists gunned down a shopkeeper and two farmers.

Curfew Set in Madhya Pradesh City After Violence

BK1604010890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, curfew was clamped in Raisen City yesterday following some incidents of arson and stabbing; three persons were injured in the stabbing. One of them later died on way to hospital. Another person, who was injured in an explosion of a hand grenade which he was carrying in his bag, also died in the hospital. Some shops and goomtis [kiosks] have been set on fire. So far 60 persons have been arrested. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CPC [Criminal Procedure Code] have been imposed throughout Bhopal District as a precautionary measure against destructive activities by antisocial elements. The order will remain in force till the 22d of this month.

India, USSR Sign Economic Cooperation Protocol

BK1604102090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol to promote new forms of economic cooperation between the two countries. The protocol was signed at the end of the second meeting of the India-Soviet Working Group on new forms of economic cooperation in New Delhi today.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Establishes Hostage Task Force

LD1504090190 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 15 Apr 90 p 18

["Iran Seeks Aid Deal To Solve Hostage Crisis," by Con Coughlin]

[Text] President Rafsanjani of Iran has set up a task force to organise the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon in return for substantial aid to help to rebuild the country's war-ravaged economy.

The new team, modelled on the US President's National Security Council, reports directly to Rafsanjani and has been given full responsibility for resolving the hostage issue.

The formation of the team, which is mainly comprised of former middle-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, is seen as reflecting Rafsanjani's determination to bring the hostage saga to an end and generally improve Iran's standing with the West.

It is also an indication that the wide-ranging economic sanctions imposed on Iran by Western governments are

having an effect at a time when Rafsanjani is under intense domestic pressure to improve living standards.

Although Iran's parliament approved the use of 16.5 billion pounds sterling in foreign credit to rebuild the economy last January, Teheran has faced considerable difficulties trying to find Western banks or governments prepared to risk a financial undertaking with such a regime. Western observers have always held that the fate of the British and American hostages held by Islamic fundamentalists in West Beirut was closely tied to the political fortunes of Rafsanjani, generally regarded as the most pragmatic of Teheran's fractious mullahs.

Since Rafsanjani's success in last summer's presidential election, he has quietly isolated the more radical politicians, such as former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who are opposed to Iran reaching any accommodation with the West.

Mohtashemi, who helped to establish the radical Hizbollah militia in West Beirut when he was Iran's ambassador to Damascus in the early 1980s, and other radical Iranian politicians have enjoyed closer links to the kidnappers than Rafsanjani's group.

The new task force, known as the National Advisory Council, has been set up to help Rafsanjani obtain overall control of the hostage issue and prevent rival political factions meddling in the delicate diplomatic negotations to get the hostages released.

Political rivalries led to the exposure of the last serious hostage initiative, the controversial arms-for-hostages deal between Rafsanjani and former President Reagan's adviser, Oliver North.

The council's first task has been to unravel the complex history of the hostage issue, to work out which groups are holding individual hostages and how much influence Iran can bring to bear on them.

By helping to secure the release of the hostages, Rafsanjani hopes to persuade the British and American governments to provide substantial bank credits.

While in Britain's case the Salman Rushdie controversy rules out the prospect of restoring full diplomatic relations, Iranian assistance in securing the release of Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan could result in certain economic sanctions being lifted.

After so many false leads in the hostage saga, Western diplomats are treating Iran's diplomatic soundings with extreme caution. At the same time there is a genuine desire to help Rafsanjani consolidate his domestic powerbase.

If Rafsanjani fails to bring about a substantial improvement in Iran's living standards by the end of the year, an economic crisis could result in a more radical government of committed fundamentalists taking power and dismiss any prospect of the hostages' ordeal ending.

Spokesman Refutes Mubarak's 'Allegations'

LD1504154290 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today refuted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's allegations that Iran had called for resumption of ties with Egypt, saying that it was Cairo which time and again made such pleas through third parties.

Morteza Sarmadi said "not only has the Islamic Republic not called for rapprochement but on the contrary it is Mubarak's regime which has frequently requested resumption of diplomatic ties with Iran through officials of other countries, but that each time the request was turned down by the Islamic Republic."

He said the Islamic Republic turned down Egypt's request for restoring ties because of Cairo's loyalty to the treacherous Camp David Accord and its support for the Zionist regime.

The Islamic Republic believes that any development in mutual ties depends on a change in Cairo's policies, said the spokesman.

Sarmadi said that because of Cairo's policy, Iran refused to hand over the Egyptian mercenaries it released last month upon Lebanese Alim Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban's request, to the Egyptian Government. The released prisoners were handed to some Egyptian ulema instead.

Government Offers To Mediate Kashmir Issue

LD1504130990 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 15, IRNA—Iranian ambassador here Javad Mansuri expressed hope last night that the Indian Government would forego its use of force in Jammu and Kashmir, and work towards a peaceful solution to the issue.

Indian controlled Kashmir is in the grip of a mass popular uprising, and the Iranian envoy talking to reporters, disclosed that the Islamic Republic and other countries have offered to mediate on the issue, but have yet to receive the Indian Government's reply.

Kashmiri Muslims say that New Delhi has reneged on its promise to hold a plebiscite on whether Kashmir should remain part of India, accede to Pakistan or become independent, as ruled by the U.N.

Elsewhere in his interview, Masuri questioned on the Islamic Republic's position if Israel attacked Iraq, dismissed the Zionist-Iraqi rhetoric as a 'sham war' that cannot be taken as serious.

He noted that Baathist Iraq has not shelled a bullet against the Zionist entity, but on the contrary has committed numerous crimes against Islamic Iran during its eight year long aggression.

"Iraq has even refused to commemorate the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadhan as Qods [Jerusalem] International Day, as declared by the late Imam Khomeini in support of the oppressed Palestinian Muslims," pointed Mansuri.

Iran for its part, he stressed "calls for security in the Persian Gulf and supports every efforts for strengthening it."

On relations with Saudi Arabia, the Iranian envoy said the deadlock still continues, with no signs of Riyadh lifting its ban on Iranian pilgrims.

The Saudis want to impose quotas for 'guests of God', but the Islamic Republic refuses to accept such un-Islamic measures.

Concern Over 'Escalation of Violence' in Kashmir

LD1504160490 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned over the situation in the Kashmir area, and believes that escalation of violence and the use of force cannot solve the issue of Kashmir, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

Morteza Sarmadi quoting reports said the fasting Muslims in Kashmir have been under house arrest for more than one week now, under the pretext of the martial law.

'Therefore, the Indian Government not only hurts religious and humanitarian sentiments of the world Muslims but also wipes out the possibility of resolving the issue through wise and rational means,' Sarmadi told IRNA.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Indian Government to show necessary self-possession and prepare the ground for peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue by stopping violent measures against Muslims.

Qom Gathering Supports Jammu, Kashmiri Muslims

LD1304205590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] In the wake of the independence-seeking uprising of the Muslim people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, a large group of religious students and clerics, members of the movement for implementing Ja'fari jurisprudence in Pakistan, by attending a glorious gathering at the holy city of Qom this evening, expressed their overall support for the trend of the relentless struggle of the Muslim people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. According to an IRNA report about this gathering, which was attended by seminary students and clergymen from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Jammu and Kashmir, a clergyman from Pakistan said: The uprising of these oppressed and suffering people is fully Islamic and this tumultuous movement is indicative of the depth of the Islamic teachings among the Muslim people of this Islamic region.

Persian Gulf Air-Sea Exercises Scheduled

LD1504113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The Sahand joint air-sea exercises will be staged by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps in Persian Gulf waters between 5 and 21 May.

According to a central news unit report, announcing the exercise during a news conference on the eve of Armed Forces Day, Navy Commander Commodore Shamkhani stressed the importance of strengthening the Navy. He said: These exercises are being held to honor the bravery and self-sacrifices of the crews of the warships Sahand and Sabalan, to improve training capabilities, guage the combined strength of the forces in defending the marine frontiers of our Islamic homeland, and improve the preparedness of the forces against possible enemies.

Referring to the fact that the Navy is prepared to give training to neighboring countries' forces, particularly Persian Gulf littoral states, he said: As part of the program to step up cooperation with neighboring countries, at the invitation of the Omani Government, two Iranian warships will sail to Oman for the first time.

The Navy commander once again invited Basiji forces [irregular forces linked to Revolutionary Guards] all over the country to join the Navy. He pointed out: Considering the bravery shown by the Basijis, the Navy intends to choose its officers, NCO's and conscripts from among Basijis.

'Asian' States, SFRY Aiding Weapons Production

JN1304165890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned Iran actually has started to produce new military weapons and equipment, including rocket launchers, submarines, and training aircraft, in cooperation with Asian countries.

Reliable military sources have revealed that among the most important new weapons that Iran has begun to produce is the Fajr-3 rocket launcher, which is a six-part launcher carried on trucks, each consisting of a platform carrying six rockets with a range of 45 kilometers. In addition, it has also manufactured a training aircraft, known as Presto, used for field support, reconnaissance, and monitoring.

According to current plans, Iranian aircraft factories in Shahanshah will produce an average of two to three of these aircraft a month. The sources also revealed that the Iranian naval industries complex in Bushehr is currently manufacturing small Yugoslav-designed submarines in cooperation with North Korea to be used for patrol purposes and laying sea mines, with a possibility of

supplying them with light anti-ship torpedos. Each submarine is large enough for a crew of two to four.

Iranian Official Visits Bulgaria, Meets Premier

LD1304210890 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—First Deputy Heavy Industries Minister Safaei Farahani, currently in Sofia on an official visit at the head of a 26-member delegation, met and conferred with Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov in the Bulgarian capital Thursday.

Lukanov referring to the good and developing relations between Tehran and Sofia hoped that the two countries will broaden sphere of their cooperation during the next joint Irano-Bulgarian economic commision.

"Bulgaria is resolute to upgrade its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and is bound to meet all its commitments in executing the agreements it has concluded with Iran," said Lukanov.

Safaei said, "Iran, at the present situation is standing as a friend on the side of Bulgaria. We are in favor of expanding bilateral ties with Bulgaria and studying potentials for further development of bilateral relations."

He said that Tehran is interested in further promoting its relations with Sofia.

Paper Cites Romania's Iran-Israel Mediation

PM1204141890 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 9 Apr 90 p 1

[Khalid 'Ali al-Matrafi report: "New Israeli-Iranian Cooperation"]

[Text] AL-MADINAH has learned from sources informed about the Iranian regime's political affairs that the aim of late Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to Tehran was to mediate with the Iranian leadership in connection with the restoration of contacts with Israel. A number of meetings took place between the two sides' ambassadors at the Romanian Foreign Ministry in Bucharest and also between Sadeq Tabataba'i, the Iranian president's roving envoy in Europe, and Lubrani, the official in charge of Iranian [as published] affairs in South Lebanon.

The sources emphasized that contacts continued between them after Ceausescu's fall, since the Iranian leadership instructed its new ambassador to Turkey, Muhammad Reza Baqeri, to hold meetings with the Israelis. The most notable issue that they discussed was economic and trade cooperation between them, especially in the oil field. As a result, Iran sold Israel 1 million barrels of oil worth $36.3 million in return for Iran's purchase of spare parts from Israel for the U.S. weapons in its possession.

Musavi-Ardebili Leads Friday Prayers 13 Apr

LD1304122490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] On the threshold of the mourning period on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the child of the Ka'bah and the martyr on the altar, His Holiness 'Ali, peace be on him, our pious and faithful compatriots today attended the immortal Mohammadan rites at the Friday prayer sites throughout the country.

The religious-political rites of the Friday prayer in Tehran were conducted in the presence of a mass of fasting devotees at Tehran University and the adjacent streets under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili.

Referring to the arrival of the Ghadr nights [holy period during Ramadan] and the matyrdom of the lord of the pious, His Holiness 'Ali Ibn Abitaleb, peace be on him, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili explained the guardianship of the cause in Islam. He then said, on the importance of International Jerusalem Day, that the magnificent marches which were held in previous years in Islamic Iran and Muslim or non-Muslim countries were instrumental in disheartening the enemies of Islam in holding sway over the Muslims. God will be happy with one who performs the task of march on that day. He stressed that all Muslims must participate in the ceremonies to be held on the occasion of the International Jerusalem Day. He said they must glorify that day.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili then referred to the World Health Organization Day and said that Muslims have always been founders of health and sanitation. We must make efforts in the direction of preserving our health and the health of our environment. Then, the speaker offered his felicitations to world Muslims on the occasion of the anniversary birth of the second bright star of the leadership of the faithful and guardianship of the cause [imamate and velayat], His Holiness Imam Hasan Mojtaba, peace be on him. He offered remarks on the victimization of that immaculate imam in the course of history.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili also referred to various occasions marking the week. On the Qom seminary, he said that thanks to the blessing of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the number of students at the Qom seminary has increased from 3,000 before the revolution to 21,000 at present. Yet, despite such massive yearning by Muslim youth from Iran and foreign countries to study at the Qom seminary, the living facilities for the students at the seminary have not increased. Therefore, the authorities of the country are asked to adopt required measures to provide housing, a library, and an educational atmosphere for these youth who are the builders of the future of Islamic society.

At the end of his remarks Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili, on the occasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Day,

praised the bravery of the Armed Forces during the victory of the revolution and the imposed war.

Discovery of Triggers Called 'Propaganda Stunt'

NC1204165290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 1, 11

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis"]

[Text] The propaganda clamor about the smuggling of nuclear weapons [as published] for Iraq was one of the main international issues of the week. The U.S. and British security forces claimed that they had prevented the transfer of some sensitive electronic devices to Iraq. They said that these devices could act as "explosion triggers" in nuclear weapons and that with their transfer to Iraq a major part of the requirements for offensive nuclear weapons could be met.

Subsequent reports endeavored to minimize the importance of the above components, claiming that they were "electronic condensers." However, the reaction of the Baghdad regime, Israel, and the United States on the subject conveys an entirely different impression. Israel announced that it would deter Iraq from gaining access to nuclear weaponry, which it would destroy as it destroyed the "Tammuz" nuclear power station [nirugah].

Meanwhile, the Baghdad regime threatened that, if Israel carried out such an attack, it would retaliate by attacking Israel with binary chemical weapons. Later Saddam made a further revelation, stressing that the United States, Great Britain, and Israel have consistently endeavored to equip Iraq with nuclear weapons. He said that the United States, Great Britain, and Israel were constantly in touch with Iraq and wanted to sell it enriched uranium and even complete nuclear weapons.

In tandem with these allegations, the "ABC" U.S. television network reported on the direct role of the United States and some other Western countries in the manufacture of ballistic missiles, which are capable of transporting chemical and nuclear warheads, for Iraq.

Taken together, the above allegations and reports, in light of the extent of the Baghdad regime's affiliation to these regimes, lead one to draw certain conclusions. It is evident that the West has a definite presence in the fabric of the Iraqi ruling system, especially in view of the decisive role played by the West in preserving and perpetuating the bestial Iraqi regime. In such circumstances, claims that the United States, with the help of Great Britain, has been trying for the past two years to lay a trap in order to catch the Baghdad regime redhanded, as it was aware that Iraq was covertly striving to gain access to nuclear weapons, seem utterly ludicrous.

The Satanic powers' role in equipping the Iraqi war machine, with chemical weapons in particular, is not a point that even the West can refute. The Western governments try their utmost to attribute such attempts to "private companies" and pretend to be totally detached from such matters. However, all facts and figures point to the active and guiding role of Western governments, especially those of the United States and Great Britain, in such matters.

In light of all this, what were the objectives of the initiation and continuation of this recent propaganda stunt? Is it intended to be a humiliating exposure to harm Saddam, by means of which the West wishes to exert effective political and propaganda pressure on him? Is this a British-style form of revenge that the London government is taking for its disgrace and Saddam's disobedience in the "Bazoft" affair? Or are the West and the supporters of Iraq attempting to instill some new elements into the Iran-Iraq peace talks on the eve of the latest round and thus to change the propaganda atmosphere surrounding these talks? Is it that Saddam—whose savage policies were to be supported and strengthened as one of the principles of Western policy—has got "out of control" from the Western point of view and that his supporters are endeavoring to crush and destroy him and his regime?

These and scores of other questions comprise the several probabilities which arise if the various aspects of the issue are considered. It is possible that ambiguous answers may be given to such questions, but in any case it is a clear fact that the malicious exposure on the part of the United States and Great Britain in this regard is not confined to the points mentioned above. There are a number of other implications that will become clear with the passage of time.

Newspaper Decries U.S. Propaganda 'Agent'

NC1204210990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Aiding Satan!"]

[Text] The worst accusation that can be made against an independent and revolutionary government is that of being servile. Such a label does not adhere easily, but if it did, it would be the most effective tactic against that independent and revolutionary government. The Islamic Republic's system in Iran is not indebted to any government or power. It is constantly the target of malicious attacks by the propaganda loudspeakers of the East and the West. It is natural that these attacks should reach a peak at a time when the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has become equipped with a destiny-making plan and has initiated extensive efforts for the progress of the country in every sphere.

Accusations of moving close to the United States and holding covert talks with Washington are the most "non-stick" type of label, but if the enemy managed to convince certain minds in some way or another it would prove the most effective tactic which could be used by the enemy for projecting the present government as unsuccessful. This is something the United States knows very well and it is therefore capitalizing on it.

The United States, which the people still consider the arch-Satan, enters the arena through various ways in order to make these doubts convincing and it employs various means for the purpose. In addition to the West's propaganda loudspeakers, which are the arch-Satan's amplifiers, two camps exist which aid and abet these diabolical lines of propaganda.

The first camp comprises the internal fingertips of the United States which dutifully disseminate rumors fabricated by their mentors! The second camp consists of the regional U.S. lackeys. Whenever the United States considers it necessary, it indirectly convey its intentions through them, so that on the one hand it is immune from the repercussions of issuing direct instructions and on the other its pursues its satanic line of propaganda to attain its objectives.

This time, a mercenary Kuwaiti newspaper was assigned to become the U.S. agent and to aid the arch-Satan in its latest act of mischief. This newspaper, which is funded by the Saudi regime and the CIA jointly, embarked on assisting the arch-Satan by leveling accusations, in the beginning of the auspicious month of Ramadan [28 March-27 April], against an Islamic system (which coincided with the anniversary of the declaration of the Islamic Republic) as if it were its duty. Without citing any sources for its fabrications, it reported a secret Tehran-Washington deal and the visit of a technical experts team!

This is a well-recognized ploy which has no benefit except the greater degradation of the regional cohorts of the United States. If, in order to make such suggestions, some other newspaper had been employed which did not have such a black and shameful record of subservience as the Kuwaiti newspaper had, even then the hand of the United States would be evident behind such an intrigue. The Kuwaiti newspaper's servility to the United States and its allies is even more obvious than that of the occupied regime's and needs no further elaboration.

Whether it is the officials of this Kuwaiti newspaper who are supporters and proponents of the U.S. presence in the region, or whether it is the Arab and Kuwaiti publications, they should know the immutable reality that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the revolutionary and Muslim Islamic nation of Iran consider the United States the arch-Satan and reject all kinds of relations with the United States. Regardless of the clamor and the hue and cry of the enemies' propaganda loudspeakers, they will continue to tread the chosen path for the attainment of the objectives of the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Editorial: U.S. Policy on Israel 'Contradictory'

NC1304144690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 5

[Editorial: "International Intrigue"]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee has agreed to the allocation of $400 million for assistance to the Zionist regime in settling the Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine. The U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee also concurred in this budget allocation for the Soviet Jews.

The Bush administration had earlier announced that, unless Israel guarantees that the Soviet Jews will not be settled in the West Bank areas, it will not agree to the allocation. However, the massive budget allocation now indicates how ridiculous and deceptive is the hollow and cosmetic opposition of the U.S. echelons to the operations for the relocation of Soviet Jews in occupied areas.

This contradictory policy—that is, making efforts in practice to facilitate the extensive onslaught of the Jews in the occupied areas, while simultaneously condemning this act and shrugging off responsibility for it—is replete with deception. This policy has been adopted by the Soviets and the Americans with the practical assistance of the European governments in the past year.

At present more than 1 million Jews are living in the Soviet republics. In Ukraine alone, there are 650,000 Jews, and more than 150,000 Jews are resident in the various other Soviet republics, according to official figures.

The emigration of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine has been introduced in the Soviet Union as a manifestation of "glasnost" or Gorbachev's open political policy, but the Zionists are capitalizing on it as a step toward the policy of racism for their own benefit.

The paving of the way for the immigration of Jews from all over the world to occupied Palestine and even the enforced abduction of Jews in other countries and their subsequent transfer to these areas is a step to boost the Jewish population in relation to the Arab population and thereby to shatter the equilibrium between them.

In this respect, since World War II, the Americans have invested the most for the relocation of Jews from war-stricken Europe and from all other parts of the world to occupied Palestine. In effect, the presence of wealthy Jewish investors in U.S. society and their influence on the country's leadership was and is the greatest backing for the Jewish emigres in occupied Palestine.

In view of this, the allocation of $400 million by the United States to the Zionist regime for the relocation of the Soviet Jews in occupied Palestine is not a cause for surprise in itself; it is a mere continuation of Washington's former policy. However, the overt violent contradiction in their deeds and their diplomatic stance by the U.S. and Soviet Administrations is a reality which is proof of an international intrigue against the unarmed and defenseless Arabs and the Palestinians living in

occupied Palestine who for years have been sacrificed to these unholy and racist plots.

Roundtable Discusses Obstacles to European Unity

LD1204222590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpts] International obstacles in the way of European unity were discussed during this week's political roundtable on the Second Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting Mr. Maleki, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Bureau for Political and International Studies, said: The alliance which will come about in Europe in 1992 is the continuation of a trend which started after World War II. The problem facing European unity is that it is a kind of economic unity which will necessarily have social, political, and military aspects.

Then Dr. Bavand, a university lecturer, stressed that Britain and France would have some leeway in this unity. Regarding Soviet response to this unity he said: The Soviets tried to prevent Europe from uniting. In the meantime they intended to make certain concessions concerning the reunification of Germany, so that European unity would be prevented. In any case, the Soviet Union adopted a hostile stance toward European unity and until recently no communist parties took part in elections in European countries. But thanks to the foresight gained by various countries as a result of these developments, certain changes evolved in East European countries and the USSR.

Later, Dr. Naqib-zadeh, a univeristy lecturer, reviewed the United States' stance on this issue. He said: The first objections were raised by the United States. In 1961 the United States warned Europe that U.S. exports to Europe had dropped. [passage omitted]

Mr. Maleki said: If the Third World countries operate independently they would stand to lose a great deal in the affair. Now is the time for countries to come together and form alliances and blocs, so they could benefit more.

He said: Considering the market Europe will gain as a result of this unity, Islamic countries could use this market to their own advantage; that is, the seven percent growth of imports and the ten percent growth of exports. Also, Europe is expected to invest heavily in East Europe. Consequently, demand for oil and energy will rise. Therefore the Islamic Republic of Iran could take advantage of this opportunity.

Yazdi Urges Attendance at Jerusalem Day Marches

LD1504200990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] A consultative session of the high-ranking officials of the judicial power was held this morning in the presence of Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial power. In the course of this session, Mr. Yazdi, referring to the International Jerusalem Day, called upon the country's ever-vigilant people to attend the International Jerusalem Day ceremonies extensively.

Referring to the struggle of the people of Palestine, Mr. Yazdi said: I hope that all our country's Muslim people will, through these marches, demonstrate to global arrogance that the plans and conspiracies implemented against Islam and the Muslims, particularly in the region, cannot halt the struggle of the people of Palestine—for Palestine belongs to Palestinians and the occupiers must hand it over to its owners sooner or later.

The head of the judicial power stressed: The Muslim people of the world, particularly our martyr-nurturing ummah, will never abandon the Muslim people of Palestine. Mr. Yazdi added: We are certain that the people's mass participation at these marches, with coordination of the Muslims all over the world, will foil the conspiracies of the enemies and will show that the combative people of Palestine have not forgotten their natural and legitimate rights and are not going to do so.

Coordination Council's Jerusalem Day Statement

LD1404114990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] On the eve of International Jerusalem Day, the Islamic Publicity Coordination Council has called on the public in a statement to hold glorious ceremonies to mark that day, stressing that in the present sensitive global conditions, the mass immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied lands in Palestine, which is in progress, is an evil conspiracy hatched against Muslims.

The statement goes on: The epic-making presence of the great people of Iran in the ceremonies will demonstrate that they are faithful to the eternal vow this nation sincerely made to Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his soul, and the great leader [Khamene'i]. It will foil all the global plots and ploys of arrogance and bring a ray of hope to the Muslims' uprising in the occupied lands. Jerusalem Day is when the devotees prove their steadfastness and perseverence in defending the oppressed and deprived.

Details of the ceremonies' agendas, which will be held all over the country on Friday, will be announced in future statements.

Saudis 'Barring' Iranian Pilgrims From Holy Places

LD1504155190 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 15, IRNA—"Don't Forget Saudis on Qods [Jerusalem] Day", screamed the headline of an English daily's editorial today, drawing attention to the fact that as blessed Ramadan nears its end, the Iranian Muslims continue to be deprived of their right to fulfill a divine duty.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' threw light on the daily supplication of a fasting Muslim, as he entreats the Almighty to grant him "the opportunity to visit the holy Ka'ba this year and every year for performing the hajj pilgrimage."

The above supplication, it said, serves as a constant reminder for the journey to God's house, a bare two and a half months away, since Ramadan is the 9th month of the lunar calendar.

However, deplored KAYHAN, "acting against God's command the al-Saud regime barred Iranian Muslims from hajj" following its massacre of the 'guests of God' in the vicinity of the sacred mosque on July 31, 1987.

It said, Riyadh should agree to accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims this year and consent to the holding of antipathy rallies against the enemies of Islam, said KAYHAN.

"There are several verses in the holy Koran which clearly state that no one is authorized to stop a Muslim from entering Mecca to participate in the yearly hajj," pointed the daily, and likened the Saudi crime to the Zionist atrocities in Palestine.

"This act of the Saudis, barring the Iranian Muslims from entering Mecca for performing their religious obligation, is blasphemous and un-Islamic as the occupation of Palestine by the Zionists," it said. "We hope" concluded KAYHAN, "that masses protesting the Zionist usurption of Palestine on the last Friday of Ramadan (Qods Day) "will not forget to condemn the Saudis for what they did in Mecca in 1987, as well as their creating obstacles on the way of the Iranian hajj pilgrims."

Editorial Praises Economic Cooperation With Italy

NC1304151290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Joint Ventures With Non-hostile Countries Help"]

[Text] Iran and Italy have signed an agreement whose multi-billion dollar volume reflects a new age of eco-industrial cooperation between the two nations. The related activities cover a lot of grounds and most projects are related to the infrastructural part of the Iranian industry.

With the realization of this large-scale agreement Italy will jump to the top of the list of Iran's economic partners standing next to Japan.

This protocol is also quite significant in terms of Iran's First Five Year Plan as it takes one tenth of the whole 130 billion [not further specified] budget of this plan.

The agreement also reflects the openness of Iran with its huge economic potentials and 50-million populace, to all those non-hostile countries. Such deals are certainly mutually beneficial.

Indeed Iran enjoys vast resources to become one of the best and most secure places for foreign investment. Iran can turn to be an economic basket for the whole region and all those who respect Islamic principles of this nation can come in to get an honorable and generous share in the Islamic Republic's extensive plan for development in diversified fields.

The success of the Iranian First Five Year Development Plan for a fact will greatly depend on a rightful channelling of the eco-industrial activities. Italy, given its presently thriving economy, industrial standing and above all its neutral foreign policy and the understanding it has shown towards the Islamic Revolution, can surely be a good and reliable partner.

But a crucial question, as far as the success of the First Five Year Plan is concerned, is also related to the resources through which Iran can finance its projects to back up their implementation and meet its economic obligation.

Iran's resources, however, are vast and many. One significant area that has opened a very wide avenue of dependable income is the natural gas.

Just recently Iran and the Soviet Union renegotiated their gas deal and the pipes will be in operation as of tomorrow now that all the related problems and technicalities have been settled and discussed.

The Islamic eco-industrial thrust, however, will only be enhanced once realistic approaches are adopted to the immensely significant issue of economy and technology. Rightful harnessing of the nation's vast eco-industrial resources and a proper dose of foreign investment and technological cooperation from non-hostile countries play a pivotal role.

The Ministry of Mines and Metals' Italian venture is hopefully among such projects representing the right amalgam of foreign involvement in the country's development plans and from this angle very commendable.

Resumption of Natural Gas Exports Welcomed

NC1304144290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Export of Natural Gas Should Be Taken Very Seriously"]

[Text] The Islamic Republic began piping its natural gas to the Soviet Union as of today after a ten-year lull. Iran had stopped exporting gas to the USSR a few months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution mainly because of the low price the Russians were paying for this highly-recognized source of energy.

At present Iran is funnelling eight million cubic meters of gas, amounting to three billion metric tons annually, to the Soviet Union.

In an impartial approach to the issue of the decade-long standstill in Iran's gas export to the northern neighbor, it must be conceded that the halt was not in the benefit of the country. It cost Iran a highly dependable source of foreign exchange and left negative repercussions on the two capitals' relations.

Iran stands next only to the USSR in terms of natural gas resources.

Regrettably though the country has not been successful in allocating enough capital, proportionate to the significance of its resources, in facilitating the export of its gas to industial countries.

Some may observe that given its cheap price gas cannot help much to put the nation on a drastically different economic footing. Iran earns an annual income of 300 million dollars from its Russian export only.

Well, that may be right for the moment. But an energy crisis will have to be always at the back of the minds of industrial planners. Any serious energy distrubance is very likely to significantly affect the price of natural gas.

As such investment on gas-related facilities and export is by no means a drain on the nation's economy.

As far as the gas export to the Soviet Union is concerned, the country can serve as a suitable conduit to take the Iranian gas to many industrial countries needing it. The USSR can take our gas as far as Japan shores.

The government however has shown that it is quite cognizant of the importance of gas and is already deeply involved in investment on gas-related export facilities.

One commendable project is the route that connects Esfahan's gas refinery to Turkey via Tehran. The capacity of the 59-inch pipe to be erected along this route is something like 80 million cubic meters a day for the European market.

All signs then point to the benefits laden in the gas-related activities and the decision-makers' awareness of this. It is appreciable and welcome.

Nepal & Bhutan

King Birendra Agrees to Opposition Demands

BK1304163090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1619 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 13 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra has agreed to implement from Sunday [15 April] eight demands jointly submitted by Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front (ULF), a senior Nepali Congress spokesman said here Friday [13 April]. The king agreed to the demands following an hour of talks at the Narayanhity Royal Palace here with Ganesh Man Singh, the top leader of the opposition Nepali Congress, the spokesman said at a press conference. The spokesman added that the talks had been held in a cordial atmosphere.

The talks come after the king agreed Sunday [8 April] to end a 30-year ban on political parties following violent protests last week which left up to 500 dead when police opened fire, according to opposition sources.

The Nepali Congress and the ULF had sent a message to King Birendra Wednesday [11 April] warning that street protests would resume if the king did not agree to open a direct dialogue within the next 48 hours.

The eight conditions included the removal of the government of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, without which they would not agree to join an interim government. The conditions also included the immediate dissolution of the 30-year-old partyless panchayat system of elected bodies at the national, district and village level, and the deletion of clauses and subclauses in the Constitution which referred to the system.

Further on Agreement

OW1304182890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1539 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 13 (KYODO)—King Birendra of Nepal on Friday [13 April] agreed in principle to fulfill demands put forward jointly by the Nepali Congress Party and the seven-party leftwing alliance as preconditions for joining a new interim government. The king gave his approval to the supreme leader of the Nepali Congress Party, Ganesh Man Singh, during their hour-long meeting at the Narayanhit Royal Palace Friday afternoon.

"His majesty assured Mr. Singh that as a follow-up of the present meeting, earnest discussions about them (the demands) will start from April 15...," said a statement read out by a spokesman of the party later in the evening.

The demands, formulated and issued on April 11, include the release of all political prisoners and dissolution of the Rastriya Panchayat, the national assembly under the abolished partyless setup.

The king also approved Singh's idea that a new government should be formed without any further delay and that one of the multi-party leaders should be called to head the new government, if the king himself is not prepared to form it, the statement said. The talks between Singh and the Nepalese monarch were held in a most cordial atmosphere, the statement also said.

Asked if he was satisfied with the King's assurances, the 75-year-old Singh said: "The test of the pudding lies in the eating. I will be satisfied only when the demands are fulfilled."

The acting president of the Nepali Congress, K.P. Bhattarai, said the proposed discussions and implementation of the demands should not take more than one week. "By

the end of next week a new government will be formed," he said. The Nepali Congress and the left-wing alliance want the new government to be formed after dissolution of the Rastriya Panchayat [Parliament], he also noted.

The acting president replied in the affirmative when asked if there was a possibility of a communist leader forming the new government.

King's New Year's Message: Safeguard Democracy

OW1404035990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 14 KYODO—Nepal's King Birendra on Saturday [14 April] called on the Nepalese to safeguard democratic ideals and values.

"Politics in Nepal has taken a new turn," the 45-year-old monarch said in a message marking the Nepalese New Year. The king was referring to the recent restoration of multi-party democracy in the 18-million people Himalayan kingdom. "The loss of life and destruction of property have saddened us," the king said.

Nepali Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh told state-owned Nepal television Friday [13 April] it would have been better if political parties had been realized without bloodletting. Singh said many had died and thousands had been injured through police torture during the campaign for multi-party democracy.

The government on Friday announced that financial assistance will be given to the families of those killed and injured during the six week campaign that turned violent in its last days. Every family of those killed will receive 15,000 rupees (500 dollars), while the injured will get between 2,000 rupees (68 dollars) and 5,000 rupees (172 dollars).

Human rights groups are now travelling the country to get a more accurate count of the dead and injured.

Radio Nepal Announces 400 Detainees Released

BK1404122690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 14 (AFP)—More than 400 students and politicians detained throughout the country during Nepal's pro-democracy campaign have been freed, state-run Radio Nepal said Saturday [14 April].

They include two communist members of the national Panchayat (Parliament) arrested on charges of arson in Chitwan, 90 kilometres (55 miles) southeast of here, on February 18, the day Nepal's outlawed opposition groups launched a campaign to end the country's 30-year-old partyless system. Police firing in Chitwan had killed nine people and injured several, Nepali Congress sources said, adding that the government had confirmed only three dead and seven injured. The two Panchayat members along with 54 other protesters were being tried in local court on charges of setting fire to a government vehicle and looting government offices.

Meanwhile, the government of newly appointed Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand has begun investigating a political murder case in which 25 people—including senior Marxist leader Narayan Man Bijukachhe and Panchayat member Govinda Duwal—were detained for over 18 months. Pro-democracy leaders have petitioned King Birendra for their release, claiming they were detained for political reasons by former Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha.

Opposition Names Team for Talks With Premier

BK1504004490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1844 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 14 (AFP)—Nepal's two leading political parties decided Saturday [14 April] on a four-member team that is to meet with Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand to discuss forming a new government. Political sources said the team will have two members each from the Nepali Congress party and the United Leftist Front (ULF), the groups which spearheaded the campaign for the restoration of democracy in the Himalayan kingdom. They are to meet Sunday morning with Mr. Chand, who will represent King Birendra, to discuss the earliest possible implementation of eight opposition demands made after the king lifted a 30-year ban on parties last week.

The Congress party representatives named were Yog Prasad Upadhyaya and Daman Dhungana and delegates for the seven-party ULF coalition were Nilamber Acharya and Krishna Raj Verma, the sources said.

The top leadership of the Congress party and the ULF were present at a two-hour meeting to choose the four-man team. They discussed their eight demands which include the dissolution of Nepal's partyless system of panchayat councils, the formation of a broad-based coalition government and setting up a constitutional reform commission, the sources said. After the talks with Mr. Chand, the prime minister is to submit a report to the king for his final approval on implementing the opposition's demands, a high-placed source said.

Meanwhile, the Panchayat camp is also holding meetings, including the steering committee of the national Panchayat (parliament), to discuss recent political developments, panchayat sources said.

Opposition, Government Meet; 5,000 Demonstrate

BK1504090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front [ULF] began their official talks with the government in Kathmandu today. A four-member team taking part in the talks consists of Mr. Y.P. Upadhyaya and Mr. Daman Dhungana of the Nepali Congress, and Mr. Nilamber Acharya and Mr. Krishna Raj Verma of ULF.

The two sides will discuss with the government an eight-point demand charter, including the dissolution of the Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] and the other Panchayat bodies, and setting up of an all-party interim government.

All India Radio Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that about 5,000 people demonstrated outside the venue of the talks. They were raising slogans demanding dissolution of the Rashtriya Panchayat and setting up of an all-party interim government immediately.

Demonstrators Demand Chand's Immediate Resignation

BK1504145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Kathmandu, the demonstrators in thousands gheraoed [encircled] the building where talks are being held between the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and the four-member delegation of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front. The agitated demonstrators were raising slogans demanding resignation of Mr. Chand's government and setting up of an all-party interim government immediately.

All-India Radio Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon reports that the demonstrators are insisting that Mr. Chand and his Council of Ministers should announce their resignations first and then only, they will be allowed to leave the building.

Premier Reportedly Accepts Opposition Demands

OW1604003190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0007 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 16, KYODO—Nepal's Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and opposition leaders ended 14 hours of talks in the early hours of Monday [16 April] with the premier reportedly agreeing to immediately implement five opposition demands. He is expected to obtain the go-ahead from King Birendra later in the day on three other opposition demands which require the king's approval—the dissolution of the government and the Rastriya Panchayat (national assembly), and the setting up of a commission on constitutional reform.

Crowds of youths had continued demonstrating outside the Royal Nepal Academy building, where the talks were held, until the discussions ended at 3:20 a.m. When the results of the talks were announced, angry demonstrators wrecked the prime minister's car, demanding that he either meet the opposition demands immediately or resign.

Earlier Sunday evening [15 April] the crowds had prevented the prime minister from leaving, attacking his car with stones. Witnesses said he was not hurt in the incident, although visibly shaken. He had apparently been attempting to leave in order to hold consultations with the king. Demonstrators later flattened the tires of his car. Demonstrators in the streets of the capital demanded that Chand resign if the talks failed. Tara Bhat, a leader of the Nepali Congress Party, said: "Then only will we let you all out of the compound."

The opposition, consisting of the Nepali Congress Party and a leftist alliance, had made eight demands including the setting up of an interim government headed by an opposition leader and the release of all political prisoners.

The meeting follows a campaign by the opposition which led the king to announce on April 8 that he was lifting a 30-year ban on political parties. His announcement followed a confrontation on April 6 in which police opened fire on demonstrators. According to some reports at least 50 people were killed in the shooting, though the government put the death toll much lower.

Meanwhile, doctors at Katmandu's Bir Hospital started an indefinite "relay hunger strike" on Sunday to press their demand for the resignation of the home affairs minister, N.B. Swanr. They accuse Swanr of ordering police action against doctors while they were trying to get people injured in police shooting to hospital. They allege that police and troops beat up doctors and prevented the movement of ambulances carrying injured demonstrators.

Delhi: Talks End; No Results

BK1604031490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] In Kathmandu, the talks between the government side and the four-member delegation of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front [ULF] ended in the early hours of this morning without producing any result. The eight-point charter of demands of the Nepali Congress and the ULF was considered during the talks which lasted more than 15 hours.

Our Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports as the discussions failed to make any headway, the Nepali Congress-ULF delegation walked out of the talks early this morning. Our correspondent understands that the matter is now with King Birendra who is expected to issue a proclamation today. The main demands related to the resignation of the prime minister, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand's government and setting up of an all-party interim government. There is also a demand for the dissolution of the Rashtriya Panchayat. As already reported, demonstrators in thousands gheraoed [encircled] the venue of the talks demanding the resignation of Mr. Chand's government. The gherao was lifted only late at night.

King Announces Panchayat Dissolved, Chand Resigns

BK1604150490 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, in a proclamation to the nation this morning, has said political reforms have been instituted in consonance with the people's aspirations according to democratic values in the context of recent events in the country.

It is expected that all the people will give serious consideration to how they can best work together for the larger interest of the country and promotion of democratic values. In making use of one's rights, care has to be taken not to infringe on other's freedom. In a democracy, every citizen should feel free to act according to his rights. His majesty the king said curtailment of individual freedom through coercion of any kind is against the accepted democratic norms. A new climate has come into being in the country with the functioning of political parties.

His majesty noted we are confident that all political parties will always keep the national interest uppermost in organizing themselves according to their political ideology.

His majesty said Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand has tendered his resignation and recommended that the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament] be dissolved. On consultations with the steering committee of the Rashtriya Panchayat and with the standing committee of the Raj Sabha on the present political situation in view of the special circumstances prevailing in the country, he had, through this proclamation in accordance with Clause 2 of Article 81 of the Constitution of Nepal, suspended Articles 25, 26, 27, 28, 29; Clause 2-A of Article 11; Article 41-B, and Article 67-A of the Constitution of Nepal and dissolved the Rashtriya Panchayat, the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee, and the class organizations.

His majesty the king concluded he had instructed the present council of ministers to continue in office pending other arrangements. [words indistinct]

Delhi Reports Developments

BK1604045690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] In Nepal, King Birendra dissolved the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament], the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee, and all class organizations. In an address to the nation over Radio Nepal a short while ago, the king announced that the prime minister, Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who had resigned yesterday, has been asked to run the day-to-day affairs of the state till alternative arrangements are made.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that the king's announcement came following marathon talks between the government side—headed by Mr. Chand—and the four-member delegation of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front [ULF] lasting for over 15 hours. The Nepali Congress and ULF delegations later walked out of the talks as they said no progress could be made on the eight-point charter of demands. Our correspondent adds that demonstrators in thousands had gheraoed [encircled] the venue of the talks demanding the resignation of Mr. Chand's government and dissolution of the Rashtriya Panchayat.

More on Dissolution of Panchayat

OW1604053490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0520 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 16, KYODO—Nepal's King Birendra announced on Monday [16 April] he has dissolved the Rastriya Panchayat, the national assembly under the nation's disbanded partyless system. In a royal proclamation Monday morning, the king said he has disbanded Panchayat policy and the Evaluation Committee, a constitutional body whose main task was to promote partyless politics. The monarch said various provisions of the present Constitution considered incompatible with the new multiparty system have also been suspended. Dissolution of the 140-member national assembly and suspension of some of the clauses of the Constitution that run counter to the spirit of multiparty democracy were among the eight conditions put forward by opposition leaders last week.

King Birendra said he has taken the steps after consultations with the State Council and the Steering Committee of the Rastriya Panchayat, and on the recommendation of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

The prime minister himself has tendered his resignation, the King said. The King said he has asked the present four-member Council of Ministers headed by Chand to continue in office until a new arrangement is made. The king is expected to give the go-ahead for the formation of a new government in a few days, political sources said.

Opposition leaders have also demanded a new interim or provisional government under the chairmanship of the king himself, or one of the opposition leaders. Opposition leaders said they pressed that their eight conditions be met without any further delay during their talks with government leaders on Sunday.

The talks remained inconclusive till early Monday morning as slogan-shouting and flag-waving demonstrators prevented Prime Minister Chand from leaving the meeting hall without agreeing to meet all the opposition demands.

A spokesman of the Nepali Congress party, Yog Prasad Upadhyaya, said of the king's announcement, "We welcome it as a step in the right direction."

Upadhyaya, who is assistant general secretary of the party, led the opposition group at the talks with government leaders Sunday.

AFP Reports

BK1604064590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 16 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal on Monday [16 April] announced the dissolution of the national Panchayat, or parliament, as he met one of the main opposition demands for democracy. King Birendra also said on state-run Radio Nepal that Lokendra Bahadur Chand has resigned as prime minister after 12 days in the post, but added he has asked him temporarily to continue day-to-day administrative tasks. In the broadcast, the king also said he has dissolved the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee, which determined policy for the partyless system of Panchayat councils. And he said he abolished six organizations representing the interests of various social classes—organizations created after political parties were banned in Nepal 30 years ago.

Opposition sources welcomed the announcement that came shortly after 14 hours of talks between the government and opposition ended early Monday morning, but said they were waiting for the king's response to other demands.

Talks began after King Birendra last week lifted the ban on political parties as he bowed to pressure from a seven-week pro-democracy campaign that opposition sources claim left between 400 and 500 people dead.

King Birendra said on Radio Nepal Monday that: "Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand has resigned, but he was re-assigned to carry out official duties until new arrangements are made." Mr. Chand was appointed prime minister on April 4, replacing Marich Man Singh Shresta. "We have taken various steps in the recent week in view of the political situation ... In the country, so that the Nepalese people can enjoy democratic rights without affecting others rights."

Angry demonstrations have continued since the party ban was removed and commentators said there could be worse street violence if the government did not act faster to implement the king's promises of instituting a multiparty system, holding elections, and dissolving the panchayat.

Shouting anti-government slogans, a crowd of over 10,000 squatted in front of the Nepal Royal Academy where the marathon talks were being held. It had thinned to about 2,000 by early morning, an opposition leader said.

"His majesty has made substantial progress toward harmonizing the political situation in the country," Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, president of the pro-democratic Nepali Congress, said Monday. "There are however certain things still to be done to completely normalize the situation," Mr. Bhattarai continued, "but given the goodwill and speed with which his majesty is moving, we hope and trust other demands that we have forwarded to him will also be fulfilled soon."

Nepali Congress sources said those demands included the formation of a broad-based coalition government and a constitutional reform commission representing the spectrum of political views. Leaders of the various parties want to be included in the commission so that they can draw up a constitution to guarantee the future political and human rights of the 18.8 million Nepalese.

With the king's announcement, much of the partyless system of national and local Panchyat councils has been abolished. Two pillars of the system were the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee and the six class organizations—which included ex-servicemen, workers, peasants, women, children and adults and were created after the late King Mahendra had banned political parties.

Sources: King Asks Opposition To Head Coalition

BK1604143190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 16 (AFP)—King Birendra on Monday [16 April] asked the opposition Nepali Congress to head a coalition government, party sources said. The king had two hours of talks with Nepali Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh, who told reporters afterward, "We have been asked to head a coalition government." When asked who would head the coalition, Mr. Singh said, "We will decide after holding discussions with United Leftist Front and Nepali Congress colleagues."

The Nepali Congress source said the newly legalized political parties were likely to choose Mr. Singh as premier. Mr. Singh described his talks with the king as cordial and "highly successful."

Earlier Monday King Birendra announced the dissolution of the national Panchayat, or parliament, and said that Lokendra Bahadur Chand had resigned as prime minister, but would stay on until new arrangements were made.

Marathon talks between Mr. Chand and opposition representatives Sunday [15 April] had ended with no agreement on key demands for the dissolution of the partyless system, formation of a broad-based coalition government and the setting up of a reform commission, opposition sources said.

The moves follow last week's lifting of a 30-year ban on political parties after a seven-week pro-democracy campaign which left between 400 and 500 people dead, according to opposition sources.

Congress President Nominated To Head Coalition

BK1604153590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, April 16 (AFP)—Krishna Prashad Bhattarai, acting president of the Nepali Congress, was nominated Monday [16 April] to head a coalition government, a party spokesman said. Top leaders of the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist

Front decided in a 2-1/2-hour closed-door meeting to nominate Mr. Bhattarai to head the coalition government, the spokesman told reporters.

The meeting followed talks earlier Monday between King Birendra and Nepali Congress Supreme Leader Ganesh Man Singh in which he asked Mr. Singh to head a coalition government, party sources said. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Tensions With India Over Kashmir Heighten

High Command 'Concerned'

BK1304160990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 13 (AFP)—The Pakistani Army said Friday [13 April] it would remain watchful faced with war threats from India, but added that neither side had so far made any move likely to cause an outbreak of hostilities. The Defence Ministry said military commanders from both sides were still in touch via a telephone hot line despite renewed tension this week between the two countries over the disputed northern state of Kashmir.

Military sources, however, said Pakistan's High Command was concerned over the menacing posture of Indian troops in Rajasthan, adjacent to the southeast Pakistan Provinces of Punjab and Sindh. The Indians could move on to the offensive a Defence Ministry official said, adding that continued Indian military exercises, which he said should have ended in February, were a matter of concern.

In the north, New Delhi has some 200,000 soldiers and 50,000 paramilitary border guards and police deployed in the part of Kashmir it controls, whereas Islamabad has fewer than 100,000 soldiers and paramilitary troops in its part of the state, the source said.

The two countries have fought two of their three wars since independence and partition in 1947 over Kashmir.

But the Pakistani High Command is not overly concerned by the differences in troop numbers along the 700 kilometre (435 miles) line of control that separates Indian Kashmir from the northern third of the state controlled by Pakistan as the area is mountainous, the sources said.

Pakistan has an army of some 500,000 compared with the 1.2 million India can put into the field, they said.

On Friday the English-language daily THE NATION carried a six-column front page story outlining a possible war scenario which suggested that India could launch a two-pronged attack, into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and into Sind, where Islamabad is facing internal problems. THE NATION said the Indian Government could be tempted by the possibility of a lightning strike through the line of control, which would also relieve pressure from ultra-nationalist Hindus in the government who want the Indian Army to pursue Moslem separatists across the border. India has accused Islamabad of arming the groups leading the separatist campaign in Kashmir. Pakistan denies the charge, claiming it provides only political support for the militants.

In the south, the newspaper added, New Delhi might prefer the desert region of the Rajasthan-Sind border as a battlefield over the Indian part of Punjab, where Sikh militants are waging a bloody campaign for a separate homeland.

THE DAWN newspaper recently estimated the cost of a short war between the two countries at some 10 million dollars each.

Authorities Deny Reported Deaths

BK1304125690 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Apr 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Pakistan has denied Indian reports that several Pakistani troops have been killed in a clash along the disputed Kashmir border. Pakistan described the incident in the Poonch sector in Kashmir as minor. India says five Pakistani troops were killed and one Indian. This report from Karachi by Lyce Doucet:

[Begin Lyce Doucet recording] Indian and Pakistani border guards have been exchanging fire over the past few months at various points along the ceasefire line. The situation has been tense in this mountainous area dividing Indian and Pakistani Kashmir. But reports here indicate there has been no escalation beyond frequent bursts of rifle and machine gun fire. Pakistani military sources have played down reports from India that several Pakistani soldiers as well as one Indian died during recent exchanges along the ceasefire line. They describe it as a minor incident and deny that any Pakistani died adding that at least one Indian may have been injured or killed. These sources say the Pakistani military is more concerned about recent remarks by the Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh in which he urged Indians to prepare psychologically for war and warned Pakistan about the heavy cost which could be inflicted. Pakistan's Army Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg has also drawn attention to what he described as a new Indian strike force in Suratgarh area, about 40 miles from Pakistan's northeastern border. India has denied that it has established new and threatening positions. But Pakistan maintains that Indian military exercises in that area has been enlarged and extended beyond the schedule time. [end recording]

Minister: Forces Ready To Face India

BK1404154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, minister of state for defense, has said that Pakistan's Armed Forces are fully prepared and alert to face any foreign threat. Presiding over a meeting of the Standing Committee on Defense of the National Assembly in Islamabad today, he said that India must pay a heavy price both in terms of national integrity and economic stability for the threat of military aggression issued by Indian leaders, including Mr. V.P. Singh. The meeting considered different aspects of foreign and internal security, and measures taken to deal with the threat of war from across the border.

The minister of state for defense told the committee that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and does not want an armed conflict with India, but if India, in its petulance, imposed a war on us, it will discover that Pakistan is fully capable of foiling any kind of aggression by utilizing all its national resources. He added that our brave Armed Forces have taken all security measures necessary to thwart any evil designs of the enemy, and that it is stronger now than ever in the past.

Military Denies Indian Reports

BK1404124290 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Report from "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has again accused Pakistan of stepping up tension over Kashmir. He said Pakistan's Armed Forces have declared the highest state of alert, armed regiments were being moved closer to the Indian border, and there were reports of air fields and radar units being made operational. Mr. Singh declared that India was ready for any eventuality. The former prime minister, Mr. Gandhi, has spoken of war clouds hanging over the country. Pakistan is reported to have rejected the latest Indian statement describing it as a figment of Mr. Singh's imagination. Lyce Doucet came on the line a short time ago from Islamabad:

[Begin Doucet recording] For the past few days Indian leaders have spoken repeatedly of the threat of war and have warned Pakistan to stop assisting Kashmiri militants in India, but Pakistan insists the violence in Indian Kashmir is an indigenous movement by Muslims demanding independence. Military officials here deny Indian claims that Pakistan's armored regiments are advancing in some border areas. They accused India of establishing a new strike corps about 40 miles from Pakistan's southeastern border. Foreign office sources here say they are watching the situation closely. But, they say, they have received signals from a third party that India's warnings are partly for domestic consumption—an apparent reference to the United States which has been urging both countries to remain calm. These sources say they still believe both governments want to avoid war. There have apparently been no new meetings of Pakistan High Command in the past few days and Pakistan has still not issued an official rebuttal to the latest Indian statements. Last week the Army chief of staff, General Aslam Beg, told a meeting of corps commander that India's threatening statements were very serious and warned that Pakistan could not remain complacent. But military officials insist troops are still in their normal peacetime positions. [end recording]

Minister Calls for 'Political Solution'

BK1304163490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr. Ahmad Saeed Awan, has said Pakistan is a peace-loving country and wants a political solution of the Kashmir issue. Addressing an iftar [fast breaking] party in Faisalabad this evening, he said a solution of the dispute lay in a plebiscite in Kashmir as agreed to by India at the United Nations. He said India would have to give the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir, even if it tries to impose a war on Pakistan instead of fulfilling its promise.

Minister: Pakistan's 'Duty To Help'

BK1504071890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The federal minister for Kashmir affairs, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Khan, has said it is Pakistan's duty to help the Kashmiri brethren who are struggling for their independence. Addressing a mammoth public meeting at (Khabru) in Skardu, he said Pakistan wants peace, and it is fully capable of defending its frontiers. The federal minister said that the world should take notice of the dangers created by India for its neighbors due to New Delhi's flouting of international norms.

Opposition Admits Running Camp

BK1404080090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] In Pakistan, the secretary general of the opposition Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, has confirmed that he is running a training camp for Kashmiri militants in Rawalpindi. In an interview with the English monthly THE HERALD, he also disclosed that weapons are being provided to those being trained in his camp. The camp is located at Fatehjang Road and is just 30 km from Islamabad.

Senator Says Militants Trained Locally

BK1504160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] In Pakistan, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad, who is the chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami, has admitted that large numbers of Kashmiri young militants are being trained on Pakistani soil, apart from others in camps in the Pakistan-occupied area of Kashmir. He made the admission at a news conference in Islamabad today, saying that the training being given was to attack Indian security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir.